

*R. Rediger.*

REPORT OF VISIT TO CONGO AND EUROPE

- PART 1 -

Board of Trustees  
Congo Inland Mission

Nov. 1, 1946

Brethren:-

It was an experience that shall, perhaps, never be forgotten, when I boarded the plane at La Guardia field in New York about dusk, on the evening of May 3, 1946. From this same place at noon, I saw Mrs. Rediger leave to return to our home in Chicago. It was different from any other journey that I had made, not only because of the distance and nature of the different territories included in the visit, but the mission to which I was assigned seemed so tremendous, that when we took off and soared through the clouds, I could not help but feel that I was going out into space. It was not only the darkness that had now settled around us, but the future seemed equally unveiled. Sitting there and meditating, as you would have done, I was reminded of God's Word. Old and familiar passages came to me as I sat there in the reclining chair of the Airliner and realized that we were traveling at an average altitude of 18,000 feet and an average speed of 327 miles per hour. Then the words came to me, "And God shall make all Grace abound toward you." My soul was lightened, and deep were my feelings of gratitude for this Rock upon which my feet again had found security.

Seemingly, only a few hours and we landed in Gander Field, Newfoundland after being here only a short while it was reported that good flying weather was being announced. As the sun was rising in the beautifully decorated eastern skies, we were again speeding in that direction, with a record capacity of 43 passengers, and crossing the Atlantic about 20,000 feet nearer heaven, than the waters below. About the middle of the afternoon we ar-

rived over the "Emerald Isle," and in a little while we landed at Shannon Field in Ireland. Here we were directed into a luxurious dining-room where a luncheon (as they called it) was served. As we sat around the table that was heavily spread with bounties that were most palatable, we remarked, "If they call this a lunch, what would a dinner here be like; we would like to return for that sometime." There is no doubt that I would have enjoyed this meal much more if I had known that it was to be the last of its kind for four months.

About 9 P. M. found us safely arriving in Lisbon, Portugal, where we stayed for the night. The next morning gave evidence of another beautiful day. We were off early, speeding toward the "Dark Continent." About one o'clock in the afternoon we arrived at Dakar. My first impressions of Africa were just as I had visualized. Dakar is out in the open, barren desert of Africa. The hot sun was shining most brightly over the white sand and almost blinded one as you descended from the air-conditioned luxury liner, "The Constellation." I was introduced to Africa and native life when we entered a large room in a building which was built with logs, mud overlaying them, and also having a thatched roof. There at one end of a table we were served hot coffee. When I pointed out to the native who served me that there was a big fly floating around in the coffee in the cup, he expressed amazement that I should want it exchanged for another one.

From Dakar we went to Roberts Field, Monrovia, Liberia, where we were entertained at the American Air Base for the evening meal, and for an hour or two of rest at the army barracks.

On Sunday morning, about 6 o'clock, May 5th, found us landing at our destination at the airfield at Leopoldville, Congo Belge, Africa. Our three missionaries, Misses Anna Liechty, Selma Unruh, and Agnes Lutke, who had traveled this same route one week before, had still been detained in

Leopoldville, and they, in company with other missionaries, who were also awaiting transportation to their various field, met me at the airport. It was a most welcome experience to meet some one with whom I was acquainted, and seemingly so near to home, after having traveled so great a distance and seen so much in such a short while.

Leopoldville is considered the "gateway" to the colony, and since the white people, European, American and Canadian, having lived in the Congo for the past seven or eight years because of the war, the hotels and rooming houses of this city are very congested. After spending the day attending a service, visiting at the Union Mission House, and having had consultation with Rev. H. Wakelin Coxill and Dr. George ". Carpenter, they arranged for me to be permitted to sleep in the cabin of the steamer "Luxemburg" for the night. This permission was gotten from the Captain of the steamer which I was to take for the furtherance of the trip the next day. Thus, another experience that I am permitted to recall with awe, the first night of the Congo, I slept on the Congo River in a steamer cabin.

On Monday, May 6th, I was privileged to join our missionaries, already mentioned heretofore, on a quiet and restful ten day voyage up the Congo and Kasai Rivers to Port Franqui, where we were met by our missionaries and taken to our destination, Charlesville. When we arrived at Charlesville, we saw approximately 2,000 natives and the missionaries standing ready to greet us in an organized reception. We recalled many times having heard the missionaries tell us of their past experiences how the natives greeted them. However, now to realize such an experience for myself, and to be privileged to look into the faces of these, our brethren, who are our very own through the wonder working of the Spirit, for the moment it was an experience and an inspiration far beyond anticipation and almost beyond comprehension. As these, our colored brethren, sang hymns of

praises, their very countenances gave expression of the full joy that possessed their souls.

In driving up to one of our mission stations, one is immediately made conscious that he is entering upon the grounds of an institution. One can see before him large brick buildings such as a church, school and hospital buildings, missionary dwellings built of brick, and all of these dwellings and buildings are artistically grouped and artistically landscaped. These are grouped over a large tract of land ranging from twenty acres and up. The stations are layed out in streets, and it presents a beautiful picture, with the beautiful shrubbery all around.

In the Evangelistic and Educational departments of the work we have strong and qualified leaders. At each of the four stations we have one or more assistant pastors, and from three to four deacons who carry on most of the work of the local church. At the stations and at some of the longer established out-stations the program of the church is fully as large as here in the states. We have some strong and capable native leaders who are definitely consecrated to the cause of spiritual leadership. Our schools have also large attendances. Since the native is eager to learn, it is easier to reach him. The responsibility of the education of the native has been given over to the missions. The educational departments are quite unified among Protestant Missions. Because of the rapid development of the Congo, the native is no longer satisfied to be able to read and write in his own language, but also asks to be taught in French, Business and Industrial crafts. This is with the hope in mind that he might be able to be better qualified to be gainfully employed by Industrialists who are operating in the Congo. The Government has placed Protestant and Catholic missions on an equal basis. They are announcing a subsidy, and it is quite

evident that the next step will be a suggested educational curriculum. Thus, it will set standards to be reached by those having the responsibility of the education of the native. It is most important that we place more emphasis upon more thoroughly qualified missionaries in the future; because the situation that now confronts the Educational phase of mission work, and the work of the missionary in the field of Evangelism, is more and more the responsibility of furnishing leadership in the training and supervising of native leaders. This, I feel, does not reflect on the past, but it is rather meeting the needs of a growing Cause in a world that is moving onward. To this we might also add the Industrial work of our mission.

The Medical department of our mission work has unlimited possibilities. Much credit deserves to be given to Dr. Unruh's work, and it was unfortunate that he could not return to the field. In maintaining the work in the meantime, the nurses have been greatly blest by God's help that the dispensary and O.B. work is well developed at each station. Although Dr. Schwartz's term, so far, has been quite well checkered by the fact that he was called by the army twice, and at each time was away from his work for months at a time, yet he is establishing himself in laying the ground work for the foundation of a most effective Medical department, which will minister, in a large way, to the body and soul needs of the native. Because the government is placing much emphasis on reducing the infant mortality rate, the medical ministry in the O.B. department is a growing one. The combat with the disease of sleeping sickness is an opportunity for the medical ministry. The dispensary department is rendering a most helpful ministry to the many afflicted with large sores, and with deep, long-standing ulcers caused by improper sanitary conditions. This is to say nothing of the large field of opportunity in the work of combating the dreaded

social diseases. Then there is the challenging ministry to the Lepers. In this phase of our medical work, there has been nothing done since Dr. Unruh left the field. The Leper work should again be revived.

We could go on, at great length, reporting on the many and challenging opportunities that are ours, and which must be met, in order to answer the demands that confront our mission work in the Congo, because of the rapidly developing Colony. God has singularly owned and blessed the Cause of C.I.M. We have back of us a history of faithful service of a well-planned foundation work with a growing structure, that calls for a faith that is active in every sense of the word. I was pleasantly surprised and impressed in the fact that mission work in the Congo is far more developed than I had any idea. The work of C.I.M. is no exception in this. However, missionary work in this field (the Congo) demands the attention of the Christian Church as never before. Every emphasis possible is put on the developing of the Congo and the obtaining of its many natural resources and materials. This introduces an unusual amount of Western civilization and their methods. The native was drafted into the service. There he came into contact with the world. He was not only introduced to a living standard of Western civilization, but was also given an opportunity of leadership, and was given responsibility. Thus, he has returned quite different than when he left, and is open to the ideas, and greatly welcomes this new era into which he has entered, but alas, he is not able to realize that he is not capable of entering upon it either experimentally, or spiritually, and cannot meet the challenge it presents. What an opportunity for the Christian missions. To meet this challenge, may we again quote Dr. Mott, "To continue to do missionary work as we have been, means failure." Again, this does not mean to reflect on the past, but the indication is that we must greatly intensify our efforts.

A very helpful feature of my trip was the privilege of visiting other missions in the Congo, French Equatorial Africa, and in Belgium. Such missions visited were:- Luebo, Lubondai, Mutoto, and Luluabourg of the American Presbyterian; Sonaboto of the American Baptist; Brazzavil of the Swedish Mission; Leopoldville of the British Baptist Mission; Brocoko, Kikwit of the Un evangelized Tribes Mission; Congo Gospel Mission, Mangungu (where Miss Archie Haller is living) the main emphasis here, at this place, is orphan work. Then at Kafumba, the Mennonite Brethren Mission, and at Kandale, (Mr. Near's Mission) and independent work. In Europe I visited the English Methodist Mission in connection with the Bruxells Bureau, and also the Winston Mission. Rev. Winston is dead and Rev. Benson is now carrying on.

A very interesting and most unique experience was to attend the West Central Africa Conference held at Leopoldville, July 13th to 23rd. This gathering was the first of its kind ever attempted in Africa.

It is thought that if this is successful, there will be a Regional Conference in each of the other regions of Africa. The continent is so large that it will be divided into four (4) different regions, each having a Conference. Then in about five or seven years they will have an all African Conference. The nature of this convention, which I attended, was programs which were devotional, inspirational, and Round Table group meeting discussions on vital issues of Mission work in Africa.

The opening feature was high-lighted by an address from the Governor General of the Colonial Government. He was accompanied by the Consulates of America, Britain, France and Portugal. The Governor General spoke first, and then, accompanied by escorts, he absented himself. Each of the Consulates then spoke briefly. It was most impressive to me as it was the first meeting of this kind that I had ever attended. In his address the Governor

General recognized the help that Missions have been in developing the Congo. He gave the Protestant Missions a good place and again called attention to the announcement of his government in placing Catholic and Protestant Missions on a par. He challenged this group with the responsibility that his government has endowed Missions to bear, namely that of educating the native and that the sincerity of this is further expressed by his government in providing a subsidy for Education.

Each of the Consulates commended the Protestant Missions for their good work in their respective Colonies.

The Conference proper could perhaps be outlined in three groups:-

- A. Five Areas in which Christian Living is expressed.
- B. Five Functions of the Church.
- C. Three Geographical Regions represented.

A. EXPRESSIONS OF CHRISTIAN LIVING.

- 1. The Personal Christian Life and The Church.
- 2. The Family and The Church.
- 3. The Church and The School.
- 4. The Corporate Life of The Church.
- 5. The Community and The Church.

B. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE CHURCH.

- 1. Worship and Christian Life.
- 2. Literature and The Christian Life.
- 3. African Home and the Christian Life.
- 4. Health and The Christian Life.
- 5. Economics and The Christian Life.

C. AREA

- 1. Cameroon and French Equatorial Africa.
- 2. Angola
- 3. Congo Belge

- a. Faith and Order'
- b. Separatist Movements
- c. Evales
- d. Medical
- e. Educational Recommendations
  - 1. Government Subsidies.
  - 2. Adaptation of Programs.
  - 3. Teacher Training.
  - 4. Higher Education.
  - 5. Missionary Preparation.
- f. Christian Literature.

All lectures were translated in three different languages, French, English and Portuguese. The delegates were limited to one (1) delegate for each ten (10) missionaries that are actually on the Field from each Mission, and the Home Board secretary of each respective Mission. The African church delegation was limited to two (2) for each Mission. There were 178 delegates that were registered. This included fourteen (14) Home Board secretaries.

After the West Central African Conference, it was my privilege to attend the meeting of the C.P.C. and to visit for six days in Leopoldville. While here, I was in consultation with the C.P.C. leaders; called on the American Embassy and a few of the principle Government officials. I also had the privilege of contacting some of the key business men, among whom were the President of the Banque Belge du Congo; the manager of the Seda and P.K. stores who are both leading wholesale and retail merchants. Others that I had the opportunity of contacting were Managers of Auto Sales, Ford and General Motors, and then several leading contractors. The Congo is developing rapidly, and it is an opportunity as well as being most helpful

to the cause of Missions, that representatives have occasional visits with such personnel for mutual information. It might be in order for me to state here, that I met, and was entertained by, officials of the two large industries of our C.I.M. territory. One, the Diamond Mines of Tshipkapa, which is almost in the center of our territory. The other, the Lever Brothers Palm Nut Oil Industry located at Brabonta. Each of these large industries have far reaching influences in their respective territories.

From Leopoldville, we returned on July 31st, for another 10-day visit on our Mission field. During this time we were gathered in a 3-day Field Conference. It is always an inspirational feast to meet in our annual conferences, and to be privileged to meet together in an Annual Conference with our workers in Africa, was indeed an unusual one. It was further enlightening to listen to, and share with, the discussions of opportunities that are offered, together with the problems that confront the church in Africa. What a real encouragement to be conscious of the same Strong Arm, namely, the Holy Spirit, in far away Africa, as also in America. Thanks be to His Holy Name.

On August 10th, I left our missionaries and boarded a plane at Tshikapa for Leopoldville.

On my way home, I had the opportunity to stop in Europe for nine days. Most of this time was spent in Bruxells. I feel it was most profitable to visit the Bruxells Bureau, the University of Bruxells, and, in company with the American Embassy, contact some of the lesser Belgium diplomats. The Bruxells Bureau, that again is being revived, should prove to be most helpful for:-

A. Through, and on Behalf of, the Home Boards

1. To facilitate the traveling of missionaries through Belgium to and from the Congo; the seeking of visas and aiding with customs formalities as well as the arrangement of lodging.

2. To arrange for Missionaries courses of Study in Belgium.

B. In connection with the Belgium Protestant Church

1. To disseminate information to the Belgium Newspapers and Periodicals regarding the work of Protestant Missions in the Congo.

2. To seek to strengthen the link between the missions working in the Congo and the Belgium Protestant churches through visitation, the contribution of informative articles in church magazines.

3. To stimulate interest in the missionary cause in Belgium.

C. With relation to the Government in Belgium

1. To conduct such negotiations with the government as may be designated by the C.P.C. and also other such duties as the Council may suggest, or request.

I also feel that I had profitable contacts with officials of Transport Lines , such as the Agence Maritime Internationale S.A. Anvers, (Antwerp); the Sabena Air Lines, and the Pan-American Air-ways in Bruxells. I also visited Protestant church and mission leaders while I was in Bruxells.

In considering the tremendous congestion that still exists in trans-continental transportation, it was most fortunate that I could travel on schedule during the entire four months. In the Congo I traveled over our entire territory, visiting all of our main out-stations and regional centers, as well as many smaller out-stations. At most of these places we had a service. Some were for a day and others were only a brief service.

In company with a missionary of the respective district, we called on all State Posts, for a brief visit with the State Man.

During the entire trip, I traveled 27,218 miles. Most of this was made by plane, more than 3,000 miles of this was made by auto in the Congo, the balance was by railway, bus or Hammock, or on foot. Some of it was via the most modern and luxurious mode of travel (The Constellation Plane) and some of it the most primitive methods. Some of it in quite absolute security, and at other times quite the opposite.

It was an inspiration to fellowship and work with the missionaries on

our field. It was most inspirational and encouraging to meet and fellowship with our native church and the native church leaders.

To build an indigenous church has always been our policy. In this I feel we have quite well succeeded. As we keep in mind our goal, and continue to furnish strong leadership, comparative to the day in which we serve, the Cause will continue to move from strength to strength with God's blessing attending.

-PART II-

However, to bring as nearly as possible a complete report, and a true picture as I see it, of our work we must not overlook mentioning some problems, which now are, and others that we see we are facing. Our mission is in the time where we are experiencing the results of having followed too Democratic a policy. This was largely no doubt of necessity. This experience I find is a common one when one learns of the inner workings of the History of Missions, and while in principle the results of fruits have a common expression, yet they differ in different missions because of the background and tendencies of the personnel.

In our mission, as I see it, we have a growing individualistic practise and interest, rather than practising a common interest for the good of a cause— Congo Inland Mission. Our missionaries have developed an attitude that is quite self-centered, and more so than they are conscious. Results of this we might enumerate in the following manner:-

First:-

This has developed to the extent that instead of having four stations, we have four missions in C.I.M.

Second:-

This, I feel, was also a large contributing factor that the situation at Kalamba took on the proportions that it did.

Third:-

There is a condition of dis-harmony among the missionaries at the Mukedi station which I believe can largely be attributed to this.

Fourth:-

There is an involvement of funds that was discovered at Charlesville, which in my judgement has as its basis, an over ambition, in this direction, which has put pressure at an already too weak a point, until the Board has now become quite substantially involved financially.

Fifth:-

We have quite a dissatisfied condition among our native leaders, which in my judgement, would not have developed to the proportions that it has, and certainly could be handled by our missionaries, who have always led them, were they more united themselves in

their interests and practises for the ultimate good of the Cause as a unit.

Another matter which was reported to me by the Field Treasurer which should be included in this report is the loss, in the mails, in the transfer ofunds from Charlesville to Leopoldville in the amount of 20,000 francs.

I remember Rev. E. Troyer, on one occasion as saying,"A growing cause always has needs." The need of this cause, The Congo Inland Mission, is expressed in one word, Expansion.

#### FIRST;\*

The first need that must be filled is the creation of a department to serve as a channel through which the home Board will work. There must be an individual center, on the field that will unify all phases of the work for its best interests. This department will be responsible for information to and from the field. The services of this person will be so many and so vital that it is most important that the right man be chosen. Although to fill this important place will mean and necessitate the qualifications that perhaps only a few have, yet, since it is so urgent a need, God will again make provision, as He always has.

#### SECOND;\*

We need more missionaries. The territory of the Congo Inland Mission can bwe quite thoroughly covered from our stations that we now have. However our four stations must be greatly strengthened.

Because of the developements in the Congo, and in order to maintain our standards, it is most imperative that we send missionaries to the field who are trained and qualified for the particular work to which they assigned.

Following I have have somewhat grouped the needs in personnel, buildings and equipment as each of the four stations gave them to me.

#### IMMEDIATE NEEDS IN PERSONNEL:-

(By immediate needs, we mean that should be filled during the next 3 to 5 years)

1. Two Builders:- men who are trained and qualified to draw a blueprint and erect a building from such a print.

2. Three Doctors-

3. Four registered nurses- One with training to give "Drop Ether" anesthetic.

(Our doctors and nurses must have a working knowledge of French)

4. Three Men- For the Evangelistic Department.

Since it is impossible to separate evangelism and Education these men/ should have qualifications to give leadership (particularly to our outstation leaders) in their Educational program. Another important phase of a missionary evangelist's work is to give leadership in organization, particularly in organizing a workable program in our Native church, of systematic giving, thus he should have some training along this line.

5. One French Teacher--- could be a lady.

6. One lady secretary-- (Who knows bookkeeping and has a working knowledge of French)

It goes without saying here that all our missionaries from now on MUST know French.

ADDITIONAL MISSIONARIES OVER A LONGER RANGE. (10 year Program)

1. Three men qualified to supervise Evangelistic and Educational work in Outstations and Regional schools (or centers).
2. One Educational Man.
3. Two French Teachers- One or perhaps both of these can be a lady.
4. One Doctor.
5. One Nurse.

IMMEDIATE NEEDS IN BUILDINGS:- (In 3 to 5 years)

Kalamba .....	#	30,000.00
Charlesville, Mukedi and Nyanga:		
6- Missionary dwellings @ \$2,500.00 each .....		15,000.00
6- Schools @ \$500.00 each .....		3,000.00
3- Regional School Buildings @ \$ 750.00 each .....		2,250.00
1- Church Building .....		1,500.00
1- "junior church Building .....		1,000.00
Roofs for Girls houses .. (Charlesville) .....		550.00
Re-flooring of missionary dwelling (Charlesville) .....		100.00
Medical Wards (Nyanga) .....		1,000.00
Home for Orphans (Nyanga) .....		600.00
Office Equipment (Charlesville) .....		2,500.00
Printshop Equipment (Charlesville) .....		2,500.00
Additional Medical Equipment (Charlesville) .....		3,200.00
Balance on Dispensary and "ospital (Mukedi) .....		10,000.00
Hospital Equipment (Mukedi) .....		10,000.00

6- Passenger Automobiles @ \$1900.00 each .....	\$11,400.00
3- 3/4 Ton Trucks (Panel) @ \$1800.00 each .....	5,400.00

**ADDITIONAL BUILDINGS OVER A LONGER PERIOD (10 Years)**

Kalamba -- Building's ..... \$10,000.00

Charlesville, Nyanga and Mukedi-

Additional in Hospital Equipment (Charlesville) ....	10,000.00
Hospital and Surgical Wards (Nyanga) .....	10,000.00
Medical Wards (Nyanga) .....	600.00
Bible School Building's (Nyanga) .....	1,000.00
Dwelling for Bible School (Nyanga) .....	1,000.00
Junior Church (Mukedi) .....	1,000.00

5- Missionary Dwellings

1- 3/4 Ton Panel Truck

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. Rediger

PLANS FOR COOPERATION IN MISSION WORK IN AFRICA (Revised)

Abbreviations used:

C.I.M. For Congo Inland Mission

G.C.M.C. for The General Conference of Mennonites Church of North America.

1. The Board of Foreign Missions of the G.C.M.C. gratefully accepts the offer of the C.I.M. Board, according to which missionaries appointed for work in Africa by the former Board can be sent out co-operatively with the latter Board to work on Stations of the C.I.M. Board in the Belgian Congo.
2. The Board of Foreign Missions of the G.C.M.C. offers to the C.I.M. Board a similar arrangement, so that if the latter Board desires to send missionaries into countries where the G.C.M.C. is engaged in Mission work, these missionaries can be sent out co-operatively to work on the stations of the G.C.M.C.
3. No one shall be sent out as a missionary under the co-operative plan unless the candidates have been examined and approved by both of the co-operative Boards.
4. Missionaries that are sent out under this plan shall send a copy of their reports to both of the co-operative Boards, so that both Boards will at all times be informed about the needs and progress of the work. The administrative authority, however, is to remain at all times in the hands of the Board which has charge of that Mission Field. Specific problems and needs of the Missionary or of the work shall be reported to this same Board.
5. Salaries (allowances), Outfit allowances, Travel expenses, and all incidental or special expenses incident to the going, sojourn, and return of the Missionaries appointed for Africa by the Board of Foreign Missions of the G.C.M.C. will be paid from the treasury of said Board. The money will be sent to the C.I.M. Board for remittance. The amounts paid shall be the same as those paid by the C.I.M. Board to their Missionaries. Station Budget money shall be handled the same way; the amount to be paid shall be determined by the co-operating Boards.
6. No attempt shall be made by the Board of Foreign Missions of the G.C.M.C. to solicit money in the churches of the conferences of the C.I.M. neither for special projects nor for general Mission purposes to be used in its mission fields unless such permission has been granted by these conferences, nor shall the C.I.M. solicit money in the churches of the G.C.M.C. unless such permission has been granted by its Board of Foreign Missions.
7. The furlough program or activities of the missionaries sent out under this co-operative arrangement shall be determined conjointly by the Board under whose supervision they were sent to the Field and the co-operative Board which pays the allowances (salaries) according to the best interests of all concerned.

CONGO INLAND MISSION  
1326 West 72nd Street  
Chicago 36, Illinois  
February 10, 1947

Rev. H. G. Nyce  
Foreign Mission Board of Mennonite Conference  
722 Main Street  
Newton, Kansas

Dear Brother Nyce:

The reason that I am not able to be with you in your Board meeting has been given you by the recording secretary of C.I.M. So I am enclosing my report, and message to your board in form of a paper which I am enclosing.

You having been in our Board meeting when I gave my full report to the C.I.M. Board will be able to give them such information that they will want to take time for. Also you have the report written, thus you can glean from it as you think advisable, to subliment to the enclosed report.

Wishing you God's choicest blessings as you are in session for the great Cause, and with personal Christian regards, we are,

Most sincerely yours .

CONGO INLAND MISSION.

C. E. Rediger

Members of Foreign Mission Board  
General Conference of Mennonites,  
Met at Newton, Kansas, February 13, 1947.

Chicago 36, Illinois  
February 1, 1947

Dear Brethren:

By this time Rev. Nyce has informed you that I am away for a few weeks to regain my physical strength, and for that reason I am not able to be with you as you meet in the interests of foreign missions. I greatly regret that I am not privileged to enjoy the christian fellowship that is always most inspiring, and very much appreciated, during these meetings; however, I am deeply grateful that medical science has found my ailment to be curable, and that I am well on the way to recovery. For this reason it is necessary that I bring you a report of our work in Africa, and my visit there, as it pertains to your interests, in form of a letter. We feel, that under the circumstances you will understand, and where-in this paper may not be clear, or any questions or suggestions you may have, you will feel free to write us. As it seems now we will have our annual meeting at the regular time, (the second Tuesday in April).

First: My visit to Africa.

I am deeply grateful to God for His gracious blessings upon the trip to Africa, and returning by way of Europe. Although trans-continental transportation is still most congested, and irregular, yet, I was detained only one day in making the entire trip, 27,218 miles, according to schedule, during four and one half months. We gladly acknowledge, only God could arrange such a program, and we are thankful to Him. Having read considerable about the country of Africa and having traveled in a foreign country, ~~all~~ the country of Africa is quite as I had visualized it. However, missionary work is far more advanced than I had any idea, even though it has been my privilege to be in close touch with such interests. In this the work of C.I.M. is no exception.

It was a great inspiration to be greeted by several thousand natives and our missionaries in an organized manner. We recalled many times ~~of~~ having ~~never~~ heard the missionaries tell us of their past experiences how the natives greeted them. However, now to realize this for myself, and to be privileged to look into the faces of these our brethren, who are our very own through the blood of Christ; for the moment it was almost over-whelming, and beyond human expectation. As these our colored brethren, sang hymns of praises, their very countinances gave ~~expressly~~ expression of the full joy that possees their souls.

The first sunday in Africa was characterized by having the privilege of attending a baptismal and communion service at one of our stations. There were 153 baptized, and 898 partook of the Lord's Supper. We have consecrated and faithful native leaders in the church and in the school, however they are greatly limited because of their heathen background. The Natives, and these leaders expressed themselves many times as being deeply grateful, for the message of the gospel, and did visually plead that we sent more workers to lead them further. It is most challenging to the christian church as these appeals are brought, to see and realize that these native brethren feel the need of help, yet they do not fully understand where-in their need lies. Every emphasis ~~is~~ possible is put on the developing of the Congo, and to obtain its many resources, and materials. This introduces an unusual amount of Western Civilization and their methods. The Native was drafted into the service, of his country. There he came in contact with the world. He was not only introduced to living standards of Western Civilization, but was also given many privileges which he had not experienced before. He was given responsibility, an opportunity of leadership. Thus he returned quite different than when he left, and is open to the ideas, and welcomes this new era into which he has entered, but alas, he is not able to realize that he is not capable of entering

upon it either experimentally, or spiritually, and cannot meet the challenge it presents. This the Native leaders feel, however, as we stated before do not fully understand the full import of it. What an opportunity for the Christian Misions. To meet this challenge we again quote Dr. Mott, "To continue to do Missionary work as we have been, means failure". This does not mean to reflect on the past, but the indication is that we must greatly intensify our efforts. To this we might add that the government has placed the responsibility of the education of the native to the missions. Further, it has placed protestant and catholic missions on par, and is giving a subsidy for education. In the field of medicines they have been doing this for several years, and it is working out good.

A helpful feature of my trip was the privilege of visiting other missions in the Congo, French Equatorial Adrica, and in Belgium. Such missions visited were: Luebo, Bubondai, Mutoto, and Luluabourg of the American Presbyterian; Sonaboto of the American Baptist Mission; Brazzavil of the Swedish Mission; Leopoldville of the British Baptist Mission; Brocoko, Kikwit, of the Un-  
Mrs.  
evangelized Tribes Mission; Congo Gospel Mission, Mangungu, ( where /Archie J  
Haller is living ) the main emphasis here is orphan work. Kafumba, the Mennonite  
Brethern Mission, this is a small work just in its beginings, though Rev.  
Jansen has been there for some time. Kandale, an independant work of Mr.  
Near from Canada. In Europe I visited the English Methodist Mission in connection with the Bruxells Bureau, and also the Winston Mission.

A very interesting and most unique experience was to attend the West Central Africa Conference held at Leopoldville, July 13 to 23rd. This gathering was the first of its kind ever attempted in Africa. It is thought there will be Regional Conferences in each of the other regions of Africa. The Continent is so great that it will be divided into four different regions, each having a Conference. Then in five or seven years there will be planning for an all African

Conference. The nature of the conference which I attended ed. was programs, which were devotional, inspirational, and round table discussions group meetings on subjects of vital issues in Mission Work in Africa. A quite detailed program I have outlined in my report to the C.I.M. Board, of which Rev. Nyce has a copy, and if interested you can refer to this. I might also state here, the report of this conference is being written up in a book, and the number allotted to C.I.M. there are still about 5 copies that are available, should any of you want a copy you can write me at the home office. The price of the book is \$ 1.25.

Second: Your Missionaries.

It was a pleasure to meet our Missionaries on their field of service. The Lord is richly blessing their faithful service, in that many, many hear and accept the gospel by their faithful witnessing to the gospel being the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. They all are joyful in their service, and all of them feel satisfied that they are where God has called them.

It was unfortunate that Miss Anna H. Quiring had to be advised to return to the States before her furlough was due, because of her health. The doctor on the field, through council with other doctors advised this because there was found she had quite extended kidney trouble, and to give her the proper diagnosis and treatment she would need to return to the States where the proper facilities were available. At present she is taking treatments at the clinic at Mountain Lake, Minn., her home town.

Rev. & Mrs. George B. Neufeld are enjoying their work at Kalamba Station. Quite heavy responsibilities have been placed to them, as they are the only married couple with experience on that station. The Lord is blessing them, and they are doing a nice piece of work. Rev. Toews and family arrived on the field after about six weeks.

after about six weeks enroute. Their children are in Central school at Lubondai. Brother Toews has charge of the evangelistic work at Nyanga, and Mrs. Toews the work of the girls, and women.

Rev. Enns family figure in the work very definitely. Rev. & Mrs. Enns being pioneers at Nyanga Station, thus their duties are many fold, and greatly appreciated by the Native church, and us all. It was some-what a trial to them that it was necessary that their family needed to be divided, ( John and Katherine came home a year ahead their parent for their furlough, and are attending Bethel College. They are enjoying their work, and the entire family are reconziled to the situation. Norma Ruth is also in Central school at Lubondai.

The Sprunger family are well, and happy in the service of the great work. Rev. Sprunger, our most capable missionary in French has many opportunities in being of most valuable service to the Cause to the State and in contacts with C.P.C. at Leopoldville. He and Mrs. Sprunger have charge of the school work at Mukedi. Rev. & Mrs. Dick arrived on the field only a few ~~months~~ <sup>weeks</sup> before I arrived. They felt they will enjoy the work. Tne y were encouraged, and were looking forward when they will be able to speak the language and accept responsibilities. Rev. Dick will work in the evangelistic field, and Mrs. in the school. I

It was my pleasure to travel with Misses Liechty and Unruh, to the field. They were favorable impressed with the field, the Missionaries, and the opportunities of ministry to the Native. They have been six months on the field and have mastered the language sufficiently that they write they are given responsibilities. As you know The Dick family are stationed at Kalamba, Miss Unruh at Nyanga, and Miss Liechty at Charlesville.

Third: Matters of business.

First may we express our sincere appreciation of your devoted interest that is expressed in every way. We appreciate the valuable council that the representative of your board, Rev. Kreider, and Rev. Nyce are giving. The faithful service that Dr. Penner had been giving during the past years, is again characterized in the newly appointed Treasurer, Rev. Dycke. We appreciated greatly, the courtesy that Rev. Dycke gave us to call at our office to introduce himself, and we believe we shall be mutually blessed as we continue to work together. While we had been acquainted with Rev. Nyce for a number of years, and have always greatly appreciated his ~~his~~ clear gospel message, yet when the office of Mission secretary was made vacant, by Br. Rickert being ~~#~~ stricken, we have found in our dear brother Nyce the same interest and council in this foreign department of our work as ~~#~~ has always characterized him. For the privilege of working together in this co-operative way we feel certain that God is in it, and as I have seen the field the thought has again and again come to me, "in the fulness of time" God has so led. The field is great, ripe to harvest, and it challenges the entire Mennonite church, with all its interests.

In this we feel confident He, the Holy Spirit will anoint us daily for the needs that are ours.

The greatest need that C.I.M. has is missionaries. Young married couples. We are needing these in every department. Evangelists & Educational mem. Doctors. Nurses. We need two men~~s~~ who are builders. i.e. who can draw a blue print, and erect a building from such blue print.

Our doctor, Dr. Bowman, in Chicago has expressed his opinion about Mrs. Harres' case as saying it is possible that she will be just as well off physically in the Congo as any other place. In case they should have joy to go under such circumstances, would your board look favorable upon it?

The arrangement with the Rev. Toews family when they went to the field the last time was verbally. As I remember it, your board offered to take one half of their travel expenses to the field, and one half of their allowances the first year, and after that the full allowance, or that you would take it under consideration. Of the latter I am not quite certain. Perhaps you have a minute about this. I am only raising it, as it is a question with me. We shall appreciate your answer to this.

Again may I express my regrets that I can not be with you, and also expressing my sincere anticipation and desire for the mutual blessings that God has for us, in the Great Cause of bringing the gospel to foreign lands. With personal Christian regards to each of you, I remain,

Sincerely yours, for the Work of the Kingdom.

CONGO INLAND MISSION.

C? E. Rediger