

**TRANS-AFRICA DIVISION  
OUTLOOK**

Volume LXV August 15, 1967 No. 8

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper

## FOCUS ON

# Solusi College

## Graduation at Solusi

L. L. NELSON *Reporting*

"BE SURE that the congregation recognizes you in the pulpit as the man they know during the week," was Pastor M. E. Lind's exhortation to the theology seniors of Solusi College at the sixth annual Commencement Exercises, May 26-28. Pastor Lind is the secretary of the Trans-Africa Division. Mr. Kenneth Mndebele and Mr. Shadrach Omulo, seniors in theology, each responded with his testimony of dedication to the aims of the church, to whose service they have already been appointed.

Pastor A. E. Cook, Ministerial Association secretary of the Division, in delivering the baccalaureate sermon, explained that it was Christ who called Paul "to come over into Macedonia and help us," and not the people themselves, implying that all calls to mission service come directly from Christ. "It is at Solusi that God gets His reinforcements for the firing line" the Pastor continued, and then added, "Africa for Christ—Christ for Africa should be our goal." In conclusion the speaker read Isaiah's call, "Whom shall we send, and who will go for us?" He then appealed to the congregation to answer "Here am I, send me," and many, besides the graduates, responded.

On Sunday morning, Pastor G. F. Clifford, TAD Education Department secretary spoke to the graduates, staff, and students of Solusi on the topic "The Marks of an Educated Man." This is not the diploma alone, Pastor Clifford asserted, and appealed to the Oxford English Dictionary and to experience to show that character, the development of humility, tolerance, open-mindedness, helpfulness and fellowship were also important. A graduate should have fellowship, not only with his peers, but also with those less favoured than he. To emphasize this point Pastor Clifford pointed to Christ's leaving the company of angels to take up his abode with men. When the character and the mental powers are developed the man is edu-

cated, receives the respect of men, and may hope to hear God's blessing, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Principal R. L. Staples presented diplomas to Kenneth E. Mndebele, and Shadrach O. Omulo, congratulating them on their achievement. Mrs. F. J. Smith, acting registrar, assisted.

Following the Recessional the graduates took their places on the walk outside, where their classmates, teachers, visitors, and friends shook hands with them and bade them God-speed.

Solusi Seniors of 1967 graduating with the four-year post-Cambridge school certificate Diploma in Theology are:

Kenneth E. E. Mndebele from South Africa. He has been appointed to assist Pastor A. E. Cook in evangelistic work in Johannesburg for a six-month period. Following this, he will join the staff of Bethel College to assist in the Department of Theology.

Shadrach O. Omulo of Kenya. Mr. Omulo will receive his appointment as soon as he arrives in Kenya.

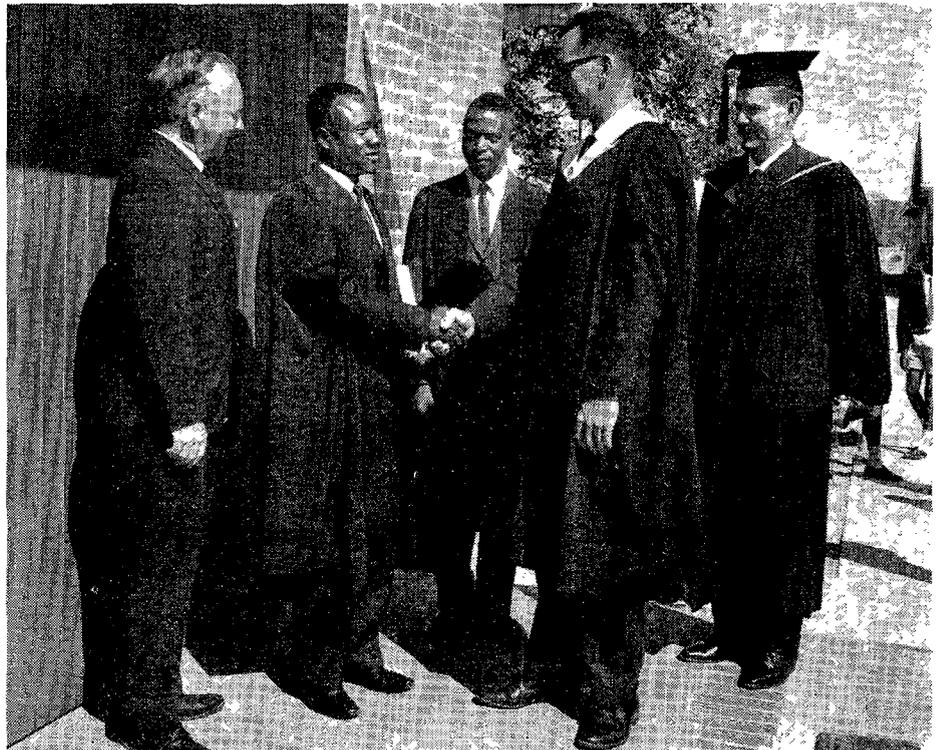
## Pray Without Ceasing

*"The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much"* James 5:16.

DURING RECENT MONTHS it has been difficult for college students to come to Rhodesia. Immigration restrictions have applied particularly to families of college students. Single students could still come, but most college students are married and they have hesitated to leave their homes for such a long time. Nobody could blame them for that. Occasionally a hardy soul came anyway, like Mr. Kiska, who has been here, separated from his family, for two and a half years.

From the beginning of May the students and teachers of Solusi College made the immigration problem a matter of concerted prayer. For Solusi had either to get more students or move to some other part of Africa. This seemed particularly distressing because Solusi at last had water, and had received a Thirtieth Sabbath offering for a new library.

While negotiations for relieving im-



Congratulating the Graduates: L. to r. M. E. Lind, TAD's secretary; Mr. Shadrach Omulo; Mr. Kenneth Mndebele; G. F. Clifford, TAD's Department of Education secretary, and R. L. Staples, principal of Solusi College.

COVER: Solusi Church.

Photo: A. E. Cook.

migration restrictions were going on in Salisbury, initiated by Principal Staples and Pastor John Stephenson, the Solusi group met for earnest prayer at 8.00 a.m. every morning, and one morning at 4.00 a.m. They continued to pray in worship, in prayer-meeting, in chapel, in church, in vespers, in special Sabbath afternoon sessions, and in private devotions. It seemed that they were always praying for more students. Not only were all the students and staff meeting for prayer, they were all praying—in small groups. When the Sabbath-school lesson presented Daniel as eating “no pleasant bread” for three weeks, while he prayed, many students and teachers fasted likewise.

The answer did come after about three weeks, from the Ministry of Immigration. Students could come and their families also; a special permit was granted to Solusi. “The reason why His professed people have no greater strength, is that they trust too much in their own wisdom, and do not give the Lord an opportunity to reveal His power in their behalf.”—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 493.



Ready for the Yoke of Service; Shadrach Omulo and Kenneth Mdebele after Receiving their Diplomas.



M. E. Lind Exhorts the Theology Students during the Graduation Exercises.

### The Lusaka Visas

SOLUSI COLLEGE planned to conduct an extension course in Evangelism beginning June 7 in Lusaka, Zambia. Nine theological students and their teacher, Pastor J. J. Blanco, expected to spend

six weeks in Lusaka preaching publicly and studying the Bible with the people in their homes.

A few weeks before setting out a serious hindrance to their plans arose. For some reason they received no reply to their requests for visas to enter Zambia. Letters and phone calls and even personal visits of our workers failed to get the needed permission. Consequently the students and Pastor Blanco brought the matter before the school community and church as a subject for special prayer. The petition for the visas was often held up before the Lord in prayer circles during the month of May. Finally one visa came through—one lone visa. The groups kept on praying.

Just a few days before time to go, when the printing of handbills had already been completed, the immigration officer at Victoria Falls called Pastor Blanco by long distance telephone and told him to come and bring all nine students, and they would get visas at the border. Even the three students whose passports were being delayed elsewhere were invited to come, and some provision would be made for them. Anyone who has travelled across international boundaries will recognize that this is not the usual way of an immigration officer. The Lord says that the hearts of all government officers are in His hand.

### Water at Solusi

THE WATER SUPPLY for Solusi has been inadequate for many years. So serious was this problem that some people thought it would be necessary to move the school. The already difficult situation was greatly aggravated by the recent drought. Water had to be rationed to a bare subsistence level.

In this period of emergency the faculty and students of Solusi made the water crisis a matter of earnest prayer. They prayed without ceasing as Paul enjoined them. One day while they were meeting for meditation and prayer, the Lord opened the windows of heaven and sent down rain. It came while they were praying. Thus their prayers soon turned from prayers of petition to prayers of thanksgiving.

The rains filled the dams with a two-year supply of water. There is water now, not only for people to drink, but for cattle and for gardens. In addition God's providence directed the government to build a large dam about seven miles from the college, whose impounded waters will total two thousand six hundred million gallons. To this source the college is now laying a pipeline. There should be water in Solusi tanks for a long time to come. “This is the Lord's doing and it is marvellous in our eyes.”

## Sabbath Afternoon Programme of Sacred Music

AS ONE OF the Commencement services, the Solusi church choir presented a programme of sacred music at 5.00 p.m. on Sabbath afternoon. Directed by Brian Stevenson, the forty-voice choir, wearing their blue robes, sang several well-known sacred songs. Interspersed were selections by Mr. Lebesse's small mixed group, solos by Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Mndebele, and a duet by Solomon Lebesse and Kenneth Mndebele.

### SACRED CONCERT

How Great Thou Art ..... *Stuart K. Hine*  
Solusi Choir

Great Is Thy Faithfulness ..... *William Runyan*  
Solusi Choir

O My Brother, Did You Come? ..... *Negro*  
*Spiritual*  
Mixed Group  
Directed by Solomon Lebesse

Eye Hath Not Seen ..... *Gaul*  
from "The Holy City"  
K. Mndebele

The Peace That My  
Saviour Hath Given ..... *H. Lillenas*  
Mr. and Mrs. K. Farnsworth

Sanctus ..... *J. S. Bach*  
Solusi Choir

As Torrents in Summer ..... *Sir Edward*  
*Elgar*  
Solusi Choir

Come Holy Spirit ..... *Edward Young*  
Brian Stevenson

Prepare Thou Me ..... *A. Louis Scarmolin*  
Duet: Solomon Lebesse, Kenneth Mndebele

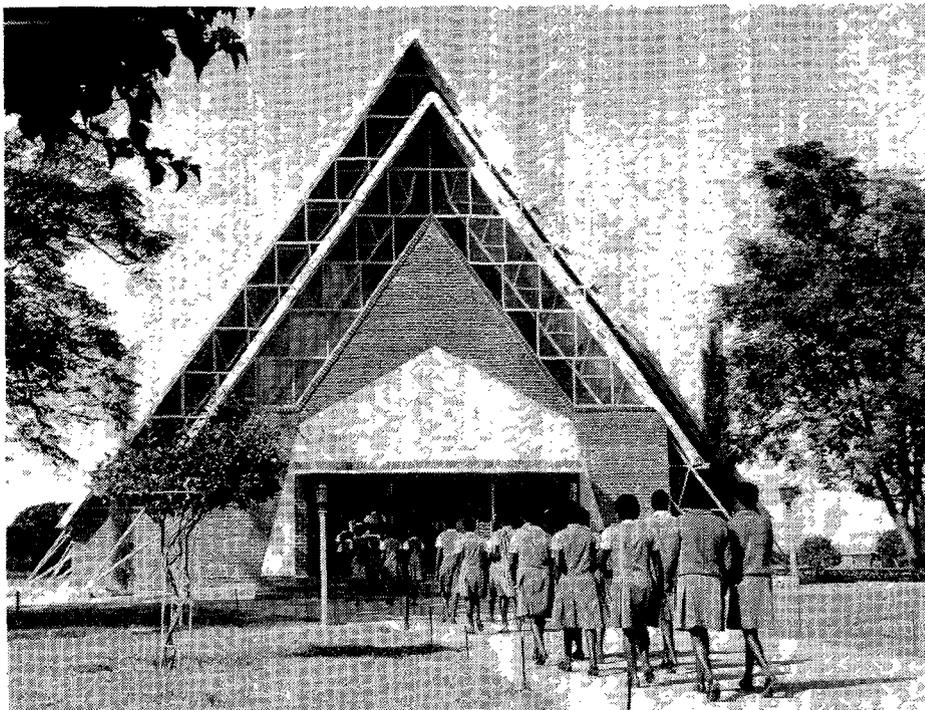
Calvary ..... *Paul Rodney*  
K. Mndebele

The Lord's My Shepherd ..... *David Grant*  
Solusi Choir

How Great Thou Art ..... *Stuart K. Hine*  
Choir and Congregation

In special gratitude for God's providences in supplying Solusi with water and opening the borders to her students, the choir sang as their last number, "How Great Thou Art," with audience participation on the choruses.

Mrs. R. L. Staples, church organist, accompanied the group.



Future Graduates at Solusi College.

### "I Need the Same Blessing Too"

by L. NJOLOMA,  
District Leader, Eastern Zambia.

"I NEED THE SAME blessing too," were the words of Mirika Zulu when she heard that the Lord can open the windows of heaven and pour out such a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

Mirika Zulu is not a member of our church but she has promised to give a tithe on all her crops. One day I called her husband to come to our church and see how we tithe all the things which God has given us. This was the day we were praying for the tithe which members brought to the storehouse. He watched with keen interest. After we had finished he called me aside and said, "Please come to my house and pray for my tithe." I told him I would be glad to do so.

To my surprise when I reached their home I found ten baskets of maize, one bag of groundnuts unshelled, and one half bag of finger millet. I asked them if this was all that belonged to the Lord. They said, "We have papaw trees." We counted the papaw trees and found one tree for the Lord. I took a tithe card from my briefcase and put it on that tree.

Since then Malachi 3:8-12 has been a testimony to the villagers who have not yet heard of this message. My earnest desire is that we all pray for this family that they will not only give their tithe but that they will give their hearts to Jesus also.

### CONSECRATION

I am willing to take what Thou sendest,  
For I know that my Father knows best;  
And so, whether shadow or shining,  
My heart shall be never repining,  
And in Thy strong arms I shall rest.

I am willing to go where Thou sayest,  
And to start on the journey today,  
The path that I take of Thy choosing,  
'Tis safe, there's no danger of losing,  
In the darksome earth-shadows, my way.

I am willing to stay if Thou thinkest  
It best for my poor, tired feet;  
And in quiet contentment be learning  
The lessons of love, still discerning  
The torch of the Father, so sweet.

I am willing to be what Thou seest  
Would honour and praise bring to Thee;  
The plans of my life all surrendering,  
Thy choice for thy child comprehending  
Brings peace and contentment to me.

—Clifford A. Russell.

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## Congo Safari

by ALBERTO DOS SANTOS,  
*Songa School.*

THE TENTH OF MARCH was bright, but chilly. We had looked forward to this day with great anticipation as it meant a new way of bringing help to our mission of Bigobo. The *Cessna* had been loaded the previous day with its precious cargo of 150 lbs of medicines. These had been carefully packed by Miss Julia Hoel who was to accompany the pilot-doctor and the writer in this new adventure. We started off and were soon airborne.

With a last look at Songa Mission, we gained altitude and found ourselves looking down on a beautiful luxuriant landscape; the doctor was, meanwhile, contacting Kamina-base in the process of filing the flight plans. We were soon up to 7,000 feet. We overflew the expansive administrative territories of Kabongo, Kabalo, and finally Kongolo. The huge Congo River, being met by the Lukuga river (only outflow of Lake Tanganyika) announced the proximity of our goal, Kongolo.

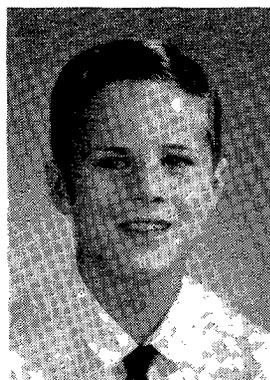
While the doctor was bringing the mechanical bird to earth, we gazed down in an effort to grasp all the minutest details: the long bridge which once spanned the mighty river, undergoing repairs; the grounded river-boat; the military camp; marks of the turbulent and anguished days that the town had known not so long before.

Throttle back, flaps down, and the expertly controlled plane glided onto the strip. We were met by Pastor Simon Muhune who had made all the preparations necessary for our arrival and transportation. After contacting the army head-quarters, administrator, and police commissioner, we descended to the river's edge. Long and narrow canoes were awaiting us. We climbed in and made ourselves as comfortable as could be in those flimsy, swaying dug-out canoes. Our hands touched the water as the two captains paddled us across. It was an interesting sight to observe their rippling muscles, accentuated by the sheen of sweat, straining to maintain a cadenced rhythm. Twenty-five minutes later we were on the other side.

After a long wait a lorry with us as passengers started off towards the mission. Three hours and a thousand bumps later we arrived. We were met by a torrential down-pour just in front of the dispensary which is the first building reached at the mission. Having travelled on the back of the lorry, our sun-burnt skins were relieved by the refreshing rain.

We were soon surrounded by people gesticulating and babbling as fast as

## Meet the John T. Mason Family



Pastor and Mrs. John T. Mason, Cynthia and John, jr., will soon be joining our Trans-Africa Division family. Pastor Mason has been called to be secretary of the Division Publishing Department, in place of Pastor J. N. Hunt. After serving for 14 years in their home-

land, the United States, the Masons transferred to the Far East and spent 6½ years there until their call to Trans-Africa reached them.

A very warm welcome awaits them with the assurance of our prayers and fellowship.

their excitement let them. Right there and then, Doctor Wilfred Müller went to see a patient who was suffering excruciating pain caused by bladder trouble. It was a striking picture of dedication to observe the drenched, weary doctor assisted by Enoch Masumbuko endeavouring to alleviate the pain of that sufferer.

During a break in the rain we walked up to the director's house, our goods being transported by enthusiastic youth from the primary school.

The days that followed were busy ones. In the dispensary Miss Hoel and Dr. Müller saw scores of patients who had converged on the mission from many near and far-off villages. The site of a possible landing-strip was chosen and

paced. The writer preached twice daily to the student body and members of the church. Discussions were held with school and mission leaders as they presented us with a vivid description of their troubles in the recent past, and their desires and aims for the future. We were deeply touched by these dedicated workers. Despite many political troubles, having been attacked, ravaged and ransacked and without visits by senior leaders, they had kept their mission in very good shape, considering all the circumstances.

The needs are tremendous. The dispensary is the only one operating in this area which has even a few medicines. There is no doctor in Kongolo, and it

is apparent that an outbreak of sleeping-sickness has been detected. Malnutrition and skin maladies are also high in the list of prevailing diseases. What a challenge for medical personnel! The school and all other buildings need attention; the school is faced with strong competition from a near-by Catholic school. What a challenge for a missionary!

But the day of departure approached only too soon. The same lorry, the same road, and the same bumps were met again. The river was a welcome sight after the punishing trip. Finally, after completing all the formalities, we departed. Before us there was Songa. Behind there was a friendly town and a courageous group of workers endeavouring to keep alight the flame of the gospel torch.

## Norseland Welfare Camp May 8-18

by J. D. HARCOTBE,  
President, Rhodesia Conference

EXCITEMENT KNEW NO BOUNDS as 38 under-privileged Coloured children entrained for the camp grounds at Norseland, nestled among the Vumba mountains, 20 miles from Umtali. To those who have never been to the Vumba mountains, I would say they have really missed a grand and beautiful sight. The scenery from Leopard's Rock is magnificent.

Many of these young people had never had the privilege of attending such a camp, and they seemed to thoroughly enjoy the whole experience.

No doubt readers of the *OUTLOOK* are acquainted with procedures of our MV camps, so I shall not take space to elaborate on this side of the picture. Suffice it to say, though, that the children really enjoyed the worship periods in which Pastor Schröder made Jesus very real in word and in song. The nature walks opened up a new and thrilling world to them. The crafts and games were directed by our three teachers from Anderson School; Miss Marina Breedt, Miss Eugene Keyter, and Mrs. Vera Bell.

Mrs. June Schröder from Bulawayo, with the help of Patrick from Anderson Memorial School, did a superb job of the cooking. I am sure the children had never tasted such wholesome and tasty food before!

We certainly appreciated the help of our laity, and in particular veteran helper for all camps, Mrs. Stella Paul, who took charge of financial affairs. Brother and Sister P. van Moerkerken from



Above: Inspection of Fingernails: Miss M. Breedt and Mrs. P. van Moerkerken with Young Campers.

Above right: Mr. P. van Moerkerken Putting Young Campers through their Early Morning Paces.

Right: Norseland Camp with Dining-room in Back-ground Nestling among the Tall Trees.



Gwelo, Miss Aisha Ahomed from the Division office, the twins, Ella and Eunice Moodley, Norman Carlson and Dorothy Shirto of Barham Green Church all helped to make our welfare camp a success. The director of the camp was Brother Raoul Fuss. He and his wife gave excellent help. Although they could not stay to the end, their help and leadership were appreciated by all. Brother van Moerkerken substituted for Brother Fuss when he left to attend an appointment at Sedaven. I attended the last three days of the camp and was indeed satisfied that the efforts and time of our workers and laity were worth-while.

Expressions of appreciation by the children gave some indication of the way they enjoyed their ten days under canvas. "We had a terrific time here, and I wish I could come here again," exclaimed Ronald Klassen. Most of the children said on leaving, "I am sad to be going and hope I can come back again." Gordon D'arcy said "It was really wonderful. I liked our prayerbands because we learned how to pray."

Surely the Lord must be well pleased with what has been done. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40.

## Your Editor Thinks . . .

. . . that the philosophy of Henry van Dyke, if practised in the life, would lead to a mature, useful and happy existence, for he believes that there are

"Four things a man must learn to do  
If he would keep his record true;  
To think, without confusion, clearly;  
To love his fellow-men sincerely;  
To act from honest motives purely;  
To trust in God and heaven securely."

We must needs then, in order to live life fully and to serve God and our fellow-men completely, strive to think positively, love supremely, act righteously, and trust implicitly, for against these the evil one can have no power.

Reporting on —

# People and Events

During the reaping effort conducted by the Division secretary, Pastor M. E. Lind at Riverside near Cape Town, a member of the C.I.D. accepted the message of truth and resigned from his work. He had a 20-year service record which would have ensured him a reasonable and sure pension, but he was willing to forfeit this in order to be true to his convictions and obey the commandments of the Lord. The day after resigning he secured a new position and commenced working again immediately.

In his evangelistic effort in Highfields near Salisbury, Pastor O. D. Musa, president of the Mashonaland Field, baptized 87 in the first baptism and 40 in the second. Over 320 decisions for Christ were made during this campaign.

Mr. and Mrs. Velyo Vinglas of the Division office have a lovely baby boy, Robert Velyo, born on June 12. Another little boy, Geoffrey Stuart, joined the I. H. Cheeseman family at Lower Gwelo on June 7.

Miss Kerttu Peltonen is a new appointee who is nursing at Heri Hospital in Tanzania. She writes that she is very happy in her work and likes her new home. She is looking forward to an interesting and rewarding term of service.

In Pretoria, capital city of South Africa, Pastor Ray Kent is addressing capacity audiences in his evangelistic campaign. Three sessions were held when the Sabbath truth was presented and two when related subjects were given. A general in the South African Army and his wife have been attending, and their conviction that they have been keeping the wrong day is growing.

The Soweto Evangelistic Centre of the Southern Union in Soweto Township near Johannesburg was completed on schedule and is the venue for a large evangelistic campaign and school of evangelism conducted by Pastor A. E. Cook, secretary of the Ministerial Association. This fine structure opened its doors to the public on August 13 and to the campaign workers, church leaders, and believers in the neighbourhood on Sabbath, August 5, when a consecration service for the workers took place. The building was dedicated to the glory of God on August 6.

Prior to the Soweto campaign, Pastor Cook conducted a three-weeks' revival effort in Serowe, Botswana.

Dr. Ray Foster is heading the Leprosy Rehabilitation and Research project recently inaugurated at Mwami Hospital in Zambia. With the use of his *Cessna* plane he envisages extending this work to Malawi, Tanzania and other centres.

Pastor and Mrs. M. L. Mills have their son, Myron, visiting them from the United States. Myron and a college friend arrived on August 10 and will accompany Pastor Mills on his itineraries into the Kalahari Desert, Zambia and Malawi. These two young

men are students at Pacific Union College in California and Myron plans to enter Loma Linda University to take the medical course in the near future.

Furlough time has come around for Miss Julia Hoel of Songa Hospital in the Congo and for Miss Ruth Brown of Ngoma Hospital in Rwanda. These hard-working nurses well deserve a period of rest and refreshing. Study leave has taken the Dr. Robert Buckley family overseas and Dr. A. S. Whiting has moved from Ngoma Hospital to Ishaka in Uganda to care for the needs of that institution until the Buckylys return. Dr. Charles Wical of Yuka Hospital is in the United States on furlough-study leave and Dr. Wilfred Müller of Songa Hospital is in Germany taking further studies and examinations. We are proud of our fine medical missionaries who continually strive to better their knowledge and techniques.

Dr. M. H. Schaffner, the Division's Medical Department secretary, had an interesting and adventuresome return trip to Africa from the United States. He took delivery in London of the new *Cessna* plane for the South-East Africa Union and, flying in stages from London to Madrid, and then skirting the coastline around the bulge of Africa, came inland to Central Africa and on to his home base. Then, after a day or two in the office our flying doctor was "on call" again in the field.

The wedding took place on August 6 in Washington, D.C., of Willmore D. Eya, son of Pastor and Mrs. Duncan Eva, and Miss Claire Louise Overdier. Trans-Africa wishes these young people every blessing and happiness in their new life together.

## Trans-Africa Division OUTLOOK

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### IMPORTANT DATES

Laymen's Literature  
Evangelism ..... September 2  
Magazine Campaign  
Month ..... September  
MV Pathfinder Day ..... September 9

## SUNSET CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER, 1967

	1	8	15	22	29
Cape Town	6.27	6.32	6.37	6.42	6.47
Johannesburg	5.55	5.58	6.01	6.04	6.07
East London	5.50	5.54	5.59	6.04	6.09
Port Elizabeth	5.59	6.04	6.09	6.14	6.19
Bloemfontein	6.00	6.04	6.07	6.11	6.15
Pietermaritzburg	5.42	5.46	5.50	5.54	5.58
Durban	5.40	5.44	5.48	5.52	5.56
Windhoek	6.40	6.43	6.45	6.47	6.49
Bulawayo	5.56	5.58	6.00	6.01	6.02
Salisbury	5.47	5.48	5.49	5.50	5.51
Gwelo	5.48	5.51	5.53	5.54	5.56
Lusaka	5.54	5.56	5.59	6.01	6.03
Blantyre	5.34	5.34	5.35	5.35	5.37
Lubumbashi	6.06	6.07	6.07	6.06	6.06
Nairobi	6.34	6.32	6.31	6.28	6.27
Mombasa	6.21	6.20	6.18	6.15	6.15
Kisumu	6.44	6.42	6.41	6.38	6.37
Kampala	6.52	6.50	6.48	6.46	6.44
Dar-es-Salaam	6.22	6.21	6.20	6.19	6.19
Tabora	6.48	6.47	6.46	6.45	6.44

### OCTOBER, 1967

	6	13	20	27
Cape Town	6.51	6.58	7.03	7.09
Johannesburg	6.10	6.14	6.17	6.21
East London	6.13	6.19	6.24	6.30
Port Elizabeth	6.23	6.30	6.35	6.41
Bloemfontein	6.18	6.23	6.27	6.31
Pietermaritzburg	6.02	6.09	6.11	6.16
Durban	6.00	6.05	6.09	6.14
Windhoek	6.52	6.55	6.57	7.01
Bulawayo	6.04	6.06	6.09	6.12
Salisbury	5.52	5.54	5.56	5.59
Gwelo	5.57	5.59	6.01	6.03
Lusaka	6.04	6.05	6.07	6.08
Blantyre	5.38	5.39	5.40	5.42
Lubumbashi	6.06	6.06	6.07	6.07
Nairobi	6.24	6.23	6.20	6.19
Mombasa	6.13	6.13	6.11	6.10
Kisumu	6.33	6.32	6.29	6.28
Kampala	6.42	6.40	6.37	6.36
Dar-es-Salaam	6.18	6.17	6.15	6.15
Tabora	6.42	6.41	6.40	6.39

# Are You on a Detour?

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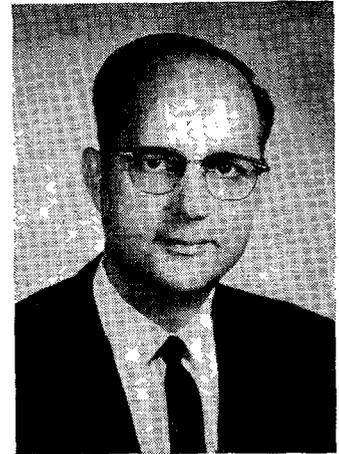
HAVE YOU EVER been travelling along a highway, anxious to reach your destination within a limited time when you were forced to take a detour? Such an experience is both provoking and disquieting. Detours can be inconvenient and unpleasant, for they are usually rough, dusty and circuitous. When confronted with such a situation there are three alternatives one can take: rebel, and thus turn back; follow the detour, but hating, bucking and resisting it all the way; or proceed with a spirit of acceptance, believing that it is for the good of one's own safety and welfare. Your attitude and reaction to such an unexpected inconvenience and vexation will determine the degree of peace and happiness you will enjoy along the way. So it will be with you as you travel the road of life. At its best, this road is uncertain and uneven. From childhood to old age, there are distresses, distractions, and dangers to be encountered. Job said: "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble" Job 14:1. The abnormalities of life to which we are all subjected often force us to revise, adapt, and even at times abandon altogether our cherished plans and hopes for the future.

How do you adjust to such circumstances? Even if the way you are now travelling is smooth and without incident, you will, sooner or later, meet with unexpected realities which will force you on to a detour. It may be a reverse in business, your health might suddenly be impaired, your child might meet with an accident, leaving him a helpless cripple, your plans for marriage might be shattered. Circumstances beyond your control may lead to the break-up of your home. Unexpected and tragic events may cause you to prematurely become a widow or widower. Inexplicable situations may cause you to change or abandon your career. You have but three alternatives to follow: rebel, by

turning back, yielding to bitterness and despair; resign yourself to facing the inevitable, taking the negative approach by succumbing to the spirit of fatalism and defeatism; or you can take the positive approach by accepting the situation with a faith that God has a better plan and with a hope of what the future will reveal. "Often our plans fail that God's plans for us may succeed."—"Ministry of Healing," page 473.

How you react to the vicissitudes of life will depend upon your daily association and communion with Christ. If you know Him as a personal Saviour and Friend, if you give Him first place in your life, then in the hour of impenetrable darkness, when the angry billows come crashing against your soul, you will find in Him an anchor that is sure and steadfast. Your faith in Christ will enable you to trust implicitly in His power and providence, giving you confidence to follow Him in the dark as well as in the light.

Just as detours are essential for the preservation of one's safety and welfare on the highway, so the analogy holds true to life. If we were never subjected to the disciplines of life and made conscious that we are living in a transient and abnormal world, we would soon look upon ourselves as independent and self-sufficient. We would make our heaven here on earth and would have no desire or perspective for a better, more secure life in the world to come. If we were never to experience dark and disappointing hours and were not forced to recognize divine providence it would be impossible to attain to spiritual maturity. We are told in the Holy Bible: "Without faith it is impossible to please God." Heb. 11:6. But faith is something that must be developed and is like a muscle in the human body. It has no strength and cannot develop except as it is



challenged. That is why Peter said: "Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial that is to try you." 1 Peter 4:12. Faith is the Christian's forte and is to be tested, tried, and exercised because it is the one major weapon of his defence which enables him to calmly and resolutely meet the unexpected situations of life.

I can tell you, dear reader, that I have had to go on some very painful and difficult detours that have forced me to the brink of darkness and despair, but I can testify that the anchor of hope held fast. The Lord did not forsake me but gave deliverance from fear and kept me from floundering in the morass of doubt and cynicism. While I was on one painful detour which involved a traumatic incident the following statement did much to assuage my soul and to keep my feet from slipping: "God has a purpose in sending trials to His children. He never leads them otherwise than they would choose to be led if they could see the end from the beginning and discern the glory of the purpose they are fulfilling."—"Prophets and Kings," page 578.

Friend of mine, have you been, or are you now on one of the detour roads of life? If not, you will inevitably come to one and when you do, think it not strange. God allows nothing to assail you except that which will be for your own good. If you will accept by faith, and not resist the experience which confronts you, Christ will hold you with a hand that will never let you go.