

Speakman Planning To Return To Congo

Letter From Bishop

Aug. 12, 1960

Wembo, Nyama

Dear folks,
I am in the midst of a survey trip of our Central Congo stations. Our medical secretary from New York, Dr. Harold Brewster, and I are accompanied by two of our doctors, two engineers and a ministerial missionary. This is our third stop in 3 days. We have been at Lodja and Katako Komba already.

Everywhere it has been the same, a great joy on the part of the people to have us come, a general meeting at the church with all the people of which I explained what has happened here in this country of ours. Folks have been very confused. Nothing of violence has happened here. They do not know what has taken place elsewhere. They can see no reason why the missionaries have left. The next, a question and answer and planning period with the leaders at each place. We make arrangements to have the district superintendent go on so as to have a cabinet meeting when we all get together. We also gather up the delegates to the Central conference to take them on with us all the way to Salisbury. We even pick up a scholarship student or two.

We all say how definitely we want to work together here for the future of the church. As one pastor just said to me, "You can't have rice to eat unless you have both rice and water for the cooking." And so he said, "missionaries and Africans are both needed to have the church. We want to eat rice," he concluded.

August 18
Salisbury

As I was writing the above we received word over our radio hook-up that the only way that we could be certain to get back to Salisbury in time for the Central conference was to go back on a chartered plane that had brought up a group of Presbyterian missionary men for their conference. They had had their survey team earlier. We had to get back to Lodja before Sunday morning when the plane arrived for us. We had to split our team into four parts to complete our work and then put in a day. Saturday, that was some day, from 4 a.m. until midnight. And miles and miles of driving and hours of consultation, but we did all get to Lodja and we had visitations in Mingo and Tunda as well and in about eight hours we were in Salisbury with everyone of the delegates for the Central Conference.

At our cabinet meeting, I appointed pastor Nganjolo Moise as administrative assistant and charged him to make necessary representations and decisions for me. Two of the district superintendents are Central conference delegates, but pastor Nganjolo was not, so he carries on there while we are here. We promised him and also the others at each of the stations that I would come

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back with the delegates to the Central conference and that we would bring missionaries with us to stay with them at the various stations.

Since arriving here our team has given a traveling report to all of the missionaries—three groups of them. We had them come together in those three centers and we have made 460 miles in a rented car all in less than forty hours and about fifteen of those were in consultations and conferences.

These were the impressions we shared with the missionaries: An amazing sense of the stewardship on the part of our people so that absolutely all property was in perfect order. A continuing situation in which absolutely no incidents of violence or disturbance has taken near our stations and as a result the people were really in ignorance or doubt as to what has been happening to our country. Because of this ignorance and even doubt of what was told to them there was much confusion as to why the missionaries had left. Then real comprehension and acceptance as I explained events that had been related to me personally through contacts, hearing or talking with the people involved. A great and sincere desire to have the missionaries to work with them as soon as possible, and yet there was still a failure to realize what was involved and what might be called for from them as Christian leaders. The on-going work especially with a new sense of the importance and centrality of the church. Yet even there all too often there was an apparent attitude of "help us have our schools and medical work and the rest does not matter so much."

Then we spoke to our missionaries here after our return of the explosive points that are still existing in the present situation. Economically, the country is paralyzed. Luluabourg is a dying town. Transportation has been completely broken down, there is no assurance, for example, of being able to get a new stock of gasoline for the next six months. In all of the centers countless numbers are out of work, all kinds of promises have been made before and after Independence, that all would be better, and now the promises cannot be kept. And therefore, discontent, and worse is sure to follow.

Harry R. Speakman, who with his family had been a missionary in the Congo until advised to leave, now plans to return for three months, leaving his wife and children in Southern Rhodesia until it can be ascertained that they would be safe in the Congo. A return by his Methodist bishop to his station indicated that all of Speakman's property was safe and unharmed during the forced absence. The following letters were received by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Speakman, of St. Mary's township, parents of the missionary, from their son, and from his bishop.

Dear folks,
On Sunday we received word that Bishop Booth and the group had returned to Salisbury. On Monday afternoon at 3 p.m. they came to Nyadiri for a meeting with the Congo missionaries in this section. They had a meeting with the ones at Salisbury on Monday morning. On Tuesday they went to Umtali for another meeting. On Wednesday all of the missionaries went to Salisbury for a meeting.

We received a letter today from the folks at Hollow Rock and surely did enjoy it. Delegates are arriving today for the Central Conference of the Methodist church. They are from all of the different conferences that we have work in Africa (Liberia, Congo, Angola, Rhodesia). The conference will last a week. Bishop Raines from Indiana will be one of the main speakers.

I certainly appreciate all of the birthday wishes. We trust all is well with you. May God richly bless you as you look unto Him for help and strength.

Then politically there are very definitely possibilities of friction and even open conflict. First,

Now back to the meeting with Bishop Booth on Monday afternoon. He gave the report of the conditions and what they saw. They visited all of the mission stations (Methodist) in central Congo except Lomela and Kindu. They had sent a number of telegrams and letters stating that they were coming. Some of them got through for the district superintendents and a group of Congolese were there to meet them at the airport at Lodja. Al Burliba established radio contact with Salisbury and talked with them each day at a set time. We were happy to know that all of the mission property was in order. Only one thing happened. One of the state persons broke in at Lomela in order to use the radio. There had been an understanding with them before the missionaries left to do that if necessary. Some Africans thought they would do it too but they were stopped by those in charge.

The group spent a day at each station. At each station they had a meeting with all of the people in which the bishop brought a message and then told them of the events. Then they had quite a period of discussion in which problems were discussed. Also at each station they had another meeting with the leaders to discuss the problems of their work. The work has been carried forward in a marvelous way under the leadership of our African district superintendents.

Bishop Booth secured the keys for our house off the Congolese pastor and he went into our house. He said everything was in order. They found the boys on duty that we had left to guard our house.

After the reports of the visit to Congo the bishop discussed the future of our work in Congo. We have been given the following to choose from: (1) Families stay together and return to America until things are settled, (2) Families being assigned to another field of labor; (3) Fathers return to central Congo to our stations while mothers and children remain in Rhodesia to see if it would be possible for them to join their husbands within three months; (4) Fathers return to central Congo to our stations and mothers and children go back to America for at least nine months. We have chosen the third possibility as the understanding that after three months if the wives and children can't join the husbands, the husbands will come out to visit their families. After three months we shall reconsider what we would like to do if it is impossible for the wives and children to return to the Congo.

On Wednesday we had an all day meeting in Salisbury in which we discussed the problems, gave our decisions, and discussed plans to carry on the work in Congo. Only the men are allowed to return at this time. It will be difficult leaving the wives and children behind but the work of the Lord must go on. We will endeavor to quickly train our Africans to take all possible additional places of leadership. There will be sixteen or eighteen men who will go in at the end of this month or the first of September. Please remember to pray for us daily.

Instead of writing one letter a week to us we would like for you to write two. Send one to Estherian and the children at our present address (Myadiri Mission P.B. 636E Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia) and send one to me at our Congo address (M. M. C. C. Tunda par Kibombo Congo). I don't know if I'll be able to receive any mail in the Congo, but I would like for you to try. I just read this to my wife and she thought she would get two letters a week. She thought I was telling you to write to her twice a week. Tell those sisters and brothers of ours to write.

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the local level, as the new officers are blamed or else become victims of jealousy of those who would like to be in their well paid positions; on the provincial level as threats of tribal splits grow and arrests of tribal leaders cause resentment on the part of the people; on the country wide level, as inter-provincial strife develops, as expressions of anti-white sentiments are broadcast; and even on the international level as Congo becomes a football of ideological differences. No one would presume these days to speak of what tomorrow might bring.

And then after these traveling reports, yesterday we all got together and spent the whole day with all of the missionaries trying to make decisions for the future. These are some of the decisions that have been made:

(1) That immediately after the Central conference we will charter a plane to take some seventeen of the men back to their stations.

The Central Conference delegates will also go back with us at the same time. These men will have a period of work and study and counseling and then make arrangements for the annual conference to be called, perhaps the end of September or the first of October. Then after that there will be a re-appraisal made as to whether or not families and single women may return to the work or what should be the program.

(2) That the main emphasis shall be that which has been primary right along with us, but needs a renewed emphasis—that is the training for leadership by our African folks. Since we have been working a year behind on government educational subsidies, we need to put together with the regular receipts and gifts from home so that we expect to be able to open all of the schools, except the one in home economics at Lodja. And we expect to be able to meet the budget as approved by the field committee last March. It is pointed out, however, that all of this should be through African treasurers and directors. We believe very definitely that we must proceed with a complete Africanization of the administrative responsibilities for the work.

(3) Some of the families and single workers are to be assigned temporary tasks in Rhodesia. Five of the mothers with their children are returning to the States so that the children can have a regular full year of schooling. The rest of the families are staying here in Rhodesia hoping that in October the decision may be that they can re-enter Congo. Plans are being made for the education of their children. Some of the single workers are undertaking literature projects, another is getting a new laboratory technology training.

And now we go to the sessions of the Central conference with all that may be done there as to African leadership for the church in the years ahead. Following the conference, I shall go with the men as they return to the Congo and we make our arrangements for the annual conference there.

Sincerely yours,
Newell S. Booth



CHARLES W. WESTERMAN, left, president of Young Democrats of Allen county, and Matthew E. Welsh, Democrat gubernatorial candidate, are shown discussing plans for the forthcoming testimonial dinner to be held in Fort Wayne.

Charles W. Westerman, president of the Allen County Young Democrats, has announced plans for a testimonial dinner honoring Alexander Campbell Saturday, September 10, at the Fort Wayne Armory.

Westerman, general chairman, said "the affair will be held to honor Campbell on his election as national committeeman from Indiana. Special tribute will be paid the new national committeeman for his outstanding work in organizational work in Allen county."

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Tickets may be obtained by writing Allen County Young Democrats, Dinner Committee, 703 So. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, Ind. Tickets are \$5 per person.

Major League Stars To Play October 14

JERSEY CITY, N. J. (UPI) — An American League all-star team managed by Roger Maris of the New York Yankees will meet a National League all-star team headed by Ernie Banks of the Chicago Cubs, Oct. 14 in Roosevelt Stadium. The exhibition game is being sponsored by the Garden State Associates which is seeking a major league franchise for Jersey City.

Rest Ordered For Boston Infelder

BOSTON (UPI) — Infielder Don Budden, felled by a Jim Bunning pitch last Tuesday night, has been ordered to take a rest and is not expected to be with the Boston Red Sox until about Sept. 13. The Red Sox have recalled bantam player Marlan Coughtry from their Allentown, Pa., farm team.

HEAVY STORM

(Continued from page 1)

when she was crushed by a falling tree. Two drownings were reported and two other men apparently died of heart attacks while trying to secure boats in the storm.

Elsewhere, Lake Charles, La., reported 1.15 inches of rain during six hours early today. More than one-half inch fell at Phillipsburg, Pa., Greensboro, N.C., and Macon, Ga. Winds were measured at 70 miles an hour at Youngstown, Ohio.

Temperatures were mainly in the 50s along the Pacific Coast and northern Great Lakes. Readings in the 60s and 70s prevailed over the rest of the country. Extremes today in the 48 continental United States were 85 at Miles City, Mont., and 45 at Fraser, Colo.



HANGING AROUND — Dr. W. Harry Peters isn't about to be attacked by a gigantic fish. The Montclair, N. J., fisherman is only posing with a 197-pounder he caught during the United States Atlantic Tuna Tournament off the coast of Galilee, R. I.

Siamese Twin Boys Born At South Bend

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (UPI) — Twin boys joined at the chest and abdomen were born today to Mrs. Sandra Woznicki, 23, in Memorial Hospital here.

The twins weighed nine pounds. They were born at 1:40 a.m. CDT and were transferred eight hours later to Children's Memorial Hospital at Chicago.

A general practitioner delivered the twins. Mrs. Woznicki's husband is Ralph Woznicki. The couple are parents of an 18-months old daughter.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES KINGDOM HALL Corner Monroe and Ninth Sunday, 3 p.m. — "Which Religion Really Matters?" will be the topic for a Bible lecture to be delivered by D. Harmon, a Watchtower representative from Fort Wayne. The public is invited.

Sunday, 4:15 p.m. — Watchtower Bible study and discussion of the subject, "The Unity of the Christian Church". One of the scriptures for consideration will be John 17:22, which states: "I have given them the glory which you may be one just as we are one."

Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Bible study, using the study aid, "Your Will Be Done On Earth".

Friday, 7:30 p.m. — School in Theocratic Ministry followed by Kingdom Ministry service meeting.

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