

Dr. J.C. Hutchison explains new role for Christian missions

Seven weeks after a two month stay serving as a medical doctor in a non-sectarian Christian mission in East Africa, Dr. J.C. Hutchison says he has returned, feeling personally blessed, and is anxious to return again.

The dedicated doctor says he had the inclination to investigate medical missions for some time. He had been first inspired by a colleague, Dr. David van der Bent, who had fulfilled a similar ambition in foreign countries and he, himself, had hoped to visit

a close friend stationed in India.

"But the opportunity to visit Africa came first," he said, and explained how a chance visit from a former missionary, working as the Canadian Deputation Secretary for African Inland Missions, had triggered his decision.

The visitor had told him of a Dr. Vincent Mhada, who had been working steadily at the mission hospital in Kola Ndoto for a three year stint without holidays. Dr. Hutchison felt he would like to

relieve Dr. Mhada thus fulfilling his own ambitions plus learning something of the African culture at the same time.

Poverty

Under the auspices of African Inland missions, Dr. Hutchison left Canada on Nov. 15, returning Jan. 14 approximately nine weeks later. His stay at the mission was in the capacity as a doctor of medicine.

He describes his impression of East Africa and says that life there is unbelievable, with the Christian

mission serving pagan people through to Muslims, controlled by witch doctors.

The doctor says that all the reading in the world can never give a true grasp of the poverty, deprivation, and starvation which exists in some of these countries, until seeing it firsthand.

He explained that mission doctors are worked to death with only one doctor in 85,000 people, as there are not enough relief doctors available.

Upon arriving by plane in Kenya, Africa, Dr. Hutchison

was taxed from there to Kola Ndoto, situated approximately 100 miles south of Lake Victoria, near the Williamson diamond mine.

Diamonds found

He tells the interesting story about the mine, founded by a Canadian geologist, Dr. Williamson from Montreal.

Reportedly when Dr. Williamson was visiting the first mission at the Kola Ndoto station in 1942, his interest in geology took him exploring the area near the mission. He happened to kick a clump of earth and out popped a diamond.

Through the financial assistance of Rev. Maynard of the mission, the geologist was able to start up the mine which, today, through a trust set up by Dr. Williamson before his death, provides many of the modern facilities at the mission, including free electricity, water, and sewage.

Missionaries are also allowed free access to the mine and conveniences provided for employees. Accordingly, the mine is set up like a British town, with Catholic, Protestant, and Muslim churches, trade schools, stores, restaurants, cricket fields, and other facilities, emulating the western way of life.

The purpose of the town set-up, is to attract employees to the mine and keep and educate them there. Dr. Hutchison says the mine has continued to prosper and grow; mine employees are indebted to the mission for

their original assistance.

Describing the mission, he says it is one encompassing a ten mile area, "like an oasis in the middle of nowhere." He says the Africans are a beautifully happy, and delightful people, although very poor, undernourished, and almost stupid in superstitions and taboos.

Witch doctor

The doctor said he had no idea to what extent superstition dominated but that witch doctors still play a tremendous role in the life of the African. He feels that missions are now making headway, however, although only a fragment of those seeking medical aid are accepting Christianity as a way of life.

In speaking of the poverty existing in the area of the Kola Ndoto mission, Dr. Hutchison says malaria, schistosomiasis, malnutrition, and many parasitic diseases are rampant, with simple diseases such as measles actually killing, as the people are too undernourished to ward off infection. "From three to four children a day are actually lost through such illnesses which, in western countries, are considered minor inconveniences."

Politically Dr. Hutchison is concerned that funds which could assist the African people are being diverted in support of guerilla activities and revolutionists as opposed to supplying the needs of the African people.

He feels that foreign aid is good if properly handled but that the African people appreciate education facilities and maybe Canada should be sending in more doctors, teachers, and engineers. "The role of the missionary now," he said, "is to aid growth of the national church." He explained that the people do not want the missionaries to run the whole show but want guidance and instruction.

---Require education

At the mission where Dr. Hutchison worked, he described living conditions as far from sterile and hygienic,



CURIOS OF AFRICA—Dr. Hutchison's collection is intriguing and exciting with hand carvings, pottery, a spear, and a variety of witch doctor utensils, all items brought back as mementos of his recent visit to East Africa.

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Blood donor clinic at Georgetown Monday

The Red Cross blood donor clinic held in Georgetown Monday collected 399 packs, amply filling all special requests for O-Negative and B-Negative blood groups

needed for heart surgery scheduled for Toronto hospitals for March 5.

Of the 88 new registered donors, there were right from the Acton area, 47 attended the clinic and 48 were rejected as donors for reasons of low blood counts, bad colds or taking medication and allergy shots, pregnancy or being over the age of 65.

In 1973, 417 attended the March clinic, 20 were rejected and 387 blood packs were filled.

Next clinic

A Red Cross spokesman expressed the organization's hope that all donors will try to be regular ones and will return to give at the next clinic on June 3.

Georgetown-area donors will soon be issued with new plastic IC cards, which can be used at any clinic in the Toronto-area. Eventually they could be used at clinics in all of Ontario. Georgetown blood donor clinics collected 1,667 packs of blood last year, 221 from timers (387 new donors).

Hallon Board of Education STUDENT SERVICES PROGRAM COUNCIL

... will present its annual report at a meeting open to the public on Thurs. March 14 at 8 p.m., at Mohawk Public School, 5280 Spruce Ave., Burlington.

Copies of the report may be obtained by contacting Mr. Jack Woolfrey at the Central Administration Office, Guelph Line, Burlington.

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