

When we reach Chissamba, we shall have the Canadian doctor operate.

Did Betty tell you where we are headed? We know now. The word has come that we are to go to the Canadian station of Chissamba, along with the Hendersons, the Steeds, and the two Canadian girls who are in Lisbon now. In Chissamba we shall be studying Umbundu. The reason for our going there first is that the teacher who is to instruct us in the native language is Canadian. We expect to be there about a year, or until about October, 1949.

How we shall live there, we know little as yet. We hope to have a house by ourselves. If we do have a house to ourselves, we shall also have African boys to work for us. This means that we shall begin right away learning the native customs as well as the language, and shall be gaining some small knowledge of the work to come. I think it's rather good that we are going first to the Canadian mission. We shall learn early how to cooperate in the joint work of the American Board and the Overseas Mission. Too, we shall be at something of an advantage when we arrive at our own station, for our acquaintance will be formed there as between leader and people, not as between student and teacher, which would be the case if we were going to an American Board station first. We are told that we would not be put to work in the station in which the study of the language was carried out in any event. This is not done. The position of the missionary would be somewhat less than it ought to be for his best service if he had to work in the same station where he learned the language, for the native teacher would always be on a little too elevated plane, and the friendship might prove to contain some awkward moments for both teacher and missionary. We are told that we shall have to understand a good deal of the psychology of the natives in order to be of best service to the church in Angola. All in all, we like the idea then, and shall go with joy to Chissamba.

Our plans now are to sail the 7th of September. We hope that all the papers will be in order by that time. Between now and then I shall write more and more sermons and speak more and more in the language. Also Betty and I will go to the north of Portugal to see something of the country. Let's hope for a pleasant week. Don't know whether we shall go this month or the first of next, but expect it will be the last of this month. We shall go with Alice Moreira, one of our teachers, the one who is living with us. We expect to spend a week, without the children. We want to see all that we possibly can, and know that we cannot take two boys into strange surroundings and expect to get much of anywhere ourselves. Wish we could take them, but the advisable thing is not to. However, we are sure that they will be all right here with some of the missionary women, or one of our Portuguese friends.

We shall continue lessons during this month and part of next, but shall spend lots of time in sight-seeing. In August we go to the University of Lisbon for courses. Between now and then we shall pack and put our papers in order.

I still have not sent out the batch of pictures I shall send for the reason that they still are not ready. We also have some other things to send, but they will come in small packages. From a person in the post office we have learned that packages of about a pound in weight will go out free of impositions of duty and much questioning by postal officials will be avoided by sending things in such small order.