

## H. Frances Davidson Diaries

### Volume 6

### August 19, 1906 - December 31, 1909

*This transcription of the Davidson diaries attempts to accurately reflect the handwritten text, including errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar. Note that the last entry mistakenly gives the year as 1910, but clearly was intended to read "1909." Occasional corrections of proper nouns or other notations are indicated in [square brackets]. Note that early missionaries often used "South Africa" or "S.A." to denote the region, rather than referring to the present nation of South Africa.*

Mache M.S., Kalomo,  
N.W. Rhodesia Aug. 19, '06

Well we are at last settled and I praise the Lord that He has permitted us to find a place to proclaim His precious name. We left Kalomo 5th with our three boys and a guide furnished us by Mr. McGregor the Commissioner, and it took us five days to reach this place. Which is 50 miles from Kalomo. When we were about 40 miles from Kalomo we unexpectedly came upon a Boer family (De Beers) living far away from every one else. There were a woman a grown daughter and a little boy, the father was away working. There did not seem to be any natives living near them. They seemd glad to see us and we also did them. They came and spent the day where we camped. We bought 7 fowls from them, and were glad of this opportunity of buying large fowls.

On Friday the tenth we came on to this place. We had thought some of stopping at this place and were pleased to find a number settled here. We looked around here that day and the next day started on to see the country farther on. We stopped at the river about five miles from here over Sunday, then we went on to Mapanza on Monday to see the Native Com- as we had a letter to him and thought he might be of some assistance, but unfortunately we did not find him at home. We found, however, another Boer family by name of Swartz. They were temporarily there putting up a home for the Com-. Tuesday morning Ndhlalambi and I went to visit the kraal of the chief Mapanza. We found a large kraal of 35 huts. In the center was an open space in which was the cattle kraal and goat kraals and around the outside were the huts. As we stepped into the open space, we heard the people softly clapping their hands on all sides to welcome us although at first we could only dimly see the people themselves through the fence. We waited at the Commissioners till Wednesday afternoon and then we learned that he would return by the way we wanted to return, and we hoped we might meet him as we were anxious to get settled. So we came back to Sakasuri's five miles from here but did not meet him. We looked around there a great deal and over here and finally chose this spot after much prayer and we felt that the Lord directed us here. May He indeed be our Captain in setting up our standard or rather His standard at this place.

Since leaving Matopo Mission we have traveled about 200 miles by wagon and about 30 miles by foot & 280 by rail and in all the Lord has wonderfully given us health and strength and no harm of beasts or men has befallen us. It has been far better in every way than we had anticipated, and we are glad that we are at last settled. We have put our wagon top on poles and are living in it.

## Mapanza Mission

Nov. 25, 1906.

Well I little thought I should wait so long before writing again in my journal, but there have been full days and much has been crowded into them. Building and making furniture. Everything has had to be done with poor material which required more work than would have been otherwise. Ndhlalambi has been a faithful and excellent hand. He may not be so quick as some but few natives would have done better. He is so careful and painstaking in all he does. Gomo is just the opposite. He is willing but careless and is no builder. He has been of good service however in hauling the logs and grass also the mud for plastering. Then too he showed much courage in going up among the Mashukulumbwe to purchase two cows for us[.] Sister Engle and I have been doing all we can so that the building might move along. We have been sawing and hammering and the Lord has blest us with health and strength[.] We have a number of boys and men working for us and they have been good workman. Especially have some of the boys found a tender place in our hearts. In fact there seems to be nothing to mar the work and the location thus far except the savage beasts that prowl around a terror to the domestic animals and to ourselves. When we pray keep us from harm and danger it is a more real thing than it used to be. Many nights we hear the howling of the wolves and the first night the oxen were in their high pen a lion tried to get in. This we saw by the tracks the next morning. Then one night we heard one roaring across the river. Once two leopards followed the boys with the wagon for a short distance. These things as well as what we hear from others convince us that the wild beasts are a real thing here. Yet the Lord is able to keep and has thus far kept us from all danger. We have a comfortable place to live in as well as those with us and our cows sheep & fowls are all safely cared for, and now we have to turn our attention toward something to eat. Although our plow has not yet come yet we thank the Lord for boys and hoes as something is being planted.

It does not look as if we were going to get away over the rainy season. So many things seem to be in the way and not the least is the trip to Kalomo. Then we are so much better housed than we had expected. However, we want the will of the Lord done. If it would seem best for health sake especially that of Sister Engle that we should certainly go but God is able to keep us here as well as elsewhere.

He does help and bless us in so many ways. He has kept us all well. The mail is brought to our door free, and Mr. Schow the trader near here very kindly offers to bring out from Kalomo what ever we want. Praise to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundant above all that we ask or think.

In the multitude of duties attendant upon starting a new work like this, the spiritual part has not been wholly neglected. A little visiting has been done at the kraals and services held here every Sunday at which some of the natives were present and sometimes the number was thirty-five or 40. We have had some very good meetings. Although we cannot do much yet in the language yet one of our boys can interpret for us from Sendebele to Isitoka. We are anxious to get some books to help us in the language.

This is a special day of prayer for Sister Steigerwald's health. It has been a blessed day to my soul. The Lord has been very near. The work and the cares since here have so occupied my time and thoughts that I did not wait upon the Lord as I should. But today I feel in greater fellowship and nearness to Him. May He help me to sit longer at His feet henceforth and keep in closer touch with Himself.

## Macha Mission

Dec. 29 1906.

Since my last writing various things have transpired. For one thing we learn that the Board is not pleased because we came on alone. I am sorry, but then how were we to know their wishes when they never intimated in the least that they did not want us to come. We were praying that the Lord would put some obstacles in the way if He did not want us to come and every thing seemed to help instead of hinder. The wagon came and was fixed up and things move right along notwithstanding our fears. Well, the Board was more or less exercised at Conference I think by Sister Myers talking against our coming so strongly and I learn she keeps on talking about me but poor woman I do not have to answer for her much speaking. I leave her with the Lord. I know the Lord bide us come & that is enough whatever man may have to say and He has certainly been taking care of us. Praise His name! Oh! when I think of all His goodness and then of my unworthiness I feel like Peter. Depart from me for I am a sinful man Oh! Lord!

We have had it is true some drawbacks since here. First one of our oxen died then lately one that we paid £2-10 since here died. He was a fine animal & very heavy but disease came among the cattle and all were sick but all recovered except him. Had we understood the disease at first as well as now perhaps we could have saved him but we are thankful it is no worse, and we are glad we did not buy the rest when we bought him. Then when some of our boys returned to their home two others run off, in company with one whom we trusted, but we are among heathen people and we must not expect too much of them.

Then we received word from the home Board that we should go south during the rainy season. Of course this was in answer to one we sent them, and at the time it did look as if it would be best, but we are all so well & so much better housed than we expected to be this year, and then it is getting so late in the season and we dread the trip to Kalomo so that Both Adda & I think it best to remain. We are thankful for the encouraging words we receive from the home land and know that prayers are ascending in our behalf and not only ascending but being answered. As Christmas drew near it became a question in our minds as to whether we should have services on that day. Sister Engle and I felt it would be about as well to omit it for this year and none of us could talk the language very well and our interpreter was not here and we had nothing especially to give the natives. Salt being so much dearer here than at Matopos. But when we spoke to the boys Ndhlalambi thought we should have services He said he would do his best to talk to the people as he has the language better than any of us. He suggested we should cook some [sani? soru?] for them. So On Sunday they were invited to come on Christmas for services. To them, Christmas has no spiritual significance. It means races dances & feasting because their overseers sometimes invite them on that day.

On Monday Ndhlalambi went out with the gun but could get nothing. Tuesday (Christmas) as we sat at the breakfast table, Sister E & I we saw several people come and we wished so much that we might have some meat or something better for the people to eat. We were speaking about killing a small goat a man had given us some time before but we felt that it was so small it would not go far. While we were talking two men came up carrying a goat and said that Macha the chief had sent it as a present. Sister & I at once felt it was of the Lord and that we were to kill it too as well as one we had bought for 2/6. This made three. Our [unclear] we did praise the Lord and felt that the promise was verified even "before they call I will answer and while they are yet speaking I will hear." Our brethren entered heartily into the preparations and killed the goats and they were soon in the kettles. We were so happy as we saw the people coming that we had something to give them as an expression of good will. Fortunately we had some extra meal on had [hand] enough to cook two big

kettles of porridge. This was a very unusual as could scarcely get enough ground day by day. There were 96 grown people present besides ourselves. Chiefly fathers and mothers heads of families. They were all seated along the veranda and in the tent, and Ndhlalambi began to read the word in zulu [Zulu], but before he began talking, the Lord sent along a first class interpreter in the person of a young man who had learned at Bulawayo. He lived some distance from here but he was truly a Godsend that day as he knew the Scriptures and interpreted so readily. The Lord especially annointed our Bro. Ndhla- for the message and he most ably and feelingly presented the wonderful story of the birth and life of Christ and the men especially listened most attentively. Tears came into my eyes as I looked upon those seamed faces who had never before heard the story of Then myself & Gomo also talked awhile and later followed the food. We then had our Christmas dinner of roasted chicken cake and supply of good things. We had asked Gomo & Ndhlalambi to eat with us but Gomo was not willing so after we were through we fixed the table and gave them such a dinner as we had. They most thoroughly enjoyed and when through looked as if they were sorry they could not eat more. Then we called the other boys to finish up what was left. It was a Christmas long to be remembered, an ideal Christian Christmas. Nothing came in to mar the perfect harmony of the day. It seemed as if God was at the head and every thing went according to His sweet will, and from the depths of our souls we felt to say to Him be all the glory.

Macha Mission, Kalomo,  
Feb. 4, 1907.

One month of the new year has passed and we feel thankful to the Lord for keeping us in health and strength thus far. Ndhlalambi and Gomo have each had a touch of the fever but only a touch. Sister Engle has kept well thus far and I trust may continue to do so.

At the opening of the year we gave an opportunity for any to come to school or rather we urged them to come, but none came. Of course this is a very busy season and then we have no good place to teach them yet. We learn, however, that some are becoming anxious to learn as soon as some one makes a break. We are still looking to the Lord and we believe he is getting things ready for a work to be done. We are thankful for the attitude the older ones seem to manifest. A week ago Sunday there were about 60 present besides the babies. The Lord helped me very much in the language that day. It surely encouraged me to keep on trying although we have so little help so far. Ndhlalambi does well in the language of course a native can always learn another native language quickly because he has a good ear for it. One soul Tom expressed a desire to follow the Lord on Sunday. He does not have the light yet to understand fully what it means, but we are thankful for the desire and want to do all we can to help him out into the light. Sister Engle & I have visited some 12 or 13 of the nearest kraals this year so far and Ndhlalambi has visited a number still farther.

We are trying to look for great things from God for the year and are united both the boys & ourselves in asking the Lord for more of an out-pouring and infilling upon ourselves that we may be better prepared for this work as Gods messengers among these who know him not.

Oh! It seems so little that I can do so little compared with what might be done. It has been so rainy lately that we cannot get out much among the people, and then the wild animals are so numerous that it does not seem safe to go out even for a little communion with the Father. Lions have been not very far off several

times lately but then the Lord continues to keep us from harm and danger. Praise His Name! Oh! He has done so much for us that He does not allow us to worry about anything

### Macha Mission Mar. 11, 1907.

Today I am 47 years of age. That points very strongly to the fact that I am growing old in years at least and I suppose in body, although it does not seem like it to me. Can I ever praise the Lord for the health and strength He gives me day by day. Of course at present we are not pressed so hard with work but that we can care for our health if we want to. I teach Ndhlalambi & Gomo and then we have our house work, sewing seeing a little to the garden studying the language etc. The rains and rivers have been so high that we could not get away to the kraals, but the greater part of the rains seem to be over and I hope soon to be able to get out among the people and tell them something about the Lord, and get more acquainted with the children. The little we have been out seems to have helped much in that direction. The 19th of February, The chief surprised us by bringing his little son Sitshebenka a boy about ten years of age to stay at the mission and learn. This is the first real fruits of desire to learn that we have yet seen, and we indeed felt thankful to our heavenly Father who put it into the heart of the chief to set such an example before his people. That week we were having a special time of prayer for ourselves and the work here and this boy coming in the midst of the week of prayer seemed a direct answer to our petitions. A week later another little boy Apulene also came for the purpose. Well Praise the Lord He is moving upon the hearts of the people. We are anxious to see a school and church building up and think then others will come to school.

We are so thankful for such good health over this season so far. Goodness and mercy have followed us all along the way, but my soul reaches out for more of God to know Him better and to be so utterly dead to everything else that only He may be seen. As we hear how the Lord in pouring out His Spirit and giving even the gift of tongues upon some of the dear ones in the home land we feel that we want everything the Lord has for us so that He may be exalted among these heathen. If my life is not such that the Lord can get the most glory out of it for His work at this place, I want to know why. Sometimes I think that may be the work runs along too smoothly, that a harder time, it might drive us nearer to the Lord, but then He knows what is best for us and how much we are able to stand, so I do not feel like praying for any harder time but day by day committing myself and the work anew into His blessed keeping and trusting Him to work out all the good pleasure of His will, and I do know that He will accomplish that which he has begun in my soul and get the most glory to Himself. I do not aspire to great great things only that which the Lords sees I can stand and which will exalt His name. If it is best for the work and His Glory that He bestow greater gifts and more power upon my sister and my two brethren here why Praise His Name! anything that will redound to His glory among these people. They need something to show that he is the Christ, and that God is the God of the universe.

Here Father, I again consecrate myself to thee and if I am not a vessel yet worth for Thee to use, Take me break me and make me over again meet for thy use. I want all for the Lord and none of myself. I can't pray as I ought but I know the Spirit does & is praying for me and Thou knowest what is in the mind of the spirit.

### Macha Mission Sept 17, 1907

It is now over six months since I wrote in my journal and many things have transpired since then of which I can only give a meager outline. The Lord has brought us over hard places and through dangers seen and unseen until this day, and my heart is full of praise to Him for His many blessings

The rainy season was on the whol[e] quite pleasant and there was no serious illness in our midst. The boys (the brethren) had a little touch of fever a few times, and about the middle of April Sister Engle had a slight attack.

Until the 1st of September we had a number of men employed and we were busy building. There has been erected this season a hut 13x16 for the school-boys one 16x30 for school and 13x20 for new workers. These are all well built huts and our brethren deserve credit for the interest they manifested and their work in building. As usual Sister Engle and I found something to do in helping to complete these. It was difficult to procure sufficient grass as the people here burn it off early on account of wild animals.

In May we had Bro. Steigerwald send up supplies to last a while. Ndhlalambi with three men took the wagon to town. I dreaded to see him go as the lions are so bad at that time and they had no gun. I tried to secure a permit to give him my light rifle but the authorities would not consent because we are women. However he and all of us looked to the Lord in his behalf and he had a very successful trip. While he was gone the lions were in this vicinity and disturbed some of the natives herds and we heard one passing near here in the morning. Later the men as they came to work one morning saw four going through one of our plowed fields. But the Fathers gracious care has been over us and protecting us from all these dangers.

The government has been urging the matter of a white man coming here also the staking out of land. So in connection with one of the brethren & some of the others we staked off a piece of land, but the Government does not feel to take action on it until a minister comes to join us. There are especially two reasons why they refuse to do this, we being alone. One is because the seat of government is being moved to Livingstone nearly 100 miles farther from us. The other because the natives are becoming restless and an uprising is feared. Indeed in some parts of the country the white people were ordered into camp for protection. So far as we can see around here they seem quiet but one never knows. Only He who sees into the hearts of men and knows the end from the beginning can tell what may be before us and we want to keep our eyes fixed on Him trusting that he will care for us in his own way.

However, if he can be more honored by our death than by our life, or if the work can be more furthered by the same, I am ready for what ever He sees is best.

Bro. Taylor and Bro. & Sister Wenger are all expecting to join us some time but when remains to be seen. We have been looking and praying and writing but to no avail. Bro. Taylor landed in Cape Town July 19th, two months ago but both Mrs Lewis and himself seem to think it the Lord's will for him to remain there some time to help Mrs. Lewis in some difficulty. While it is hard for us to think that it is the Lord's will for him to continue to remain there when he is so much needed here and when he from the first felt called to this place, yet we want to be submissive. Mr. Hemming came here about three weeks ago as he has always felt called to help me in the work every since I stopped there on the way home. While his being here in part satisfies the authorities but not altogether, Yet he has been having the fever ever since he is here at intervals and it begins to look as if he may be obliged to leave before the rains come, so the need of Bro. Taylor still seems to be extremely urgent, as Bro. Wengers have not yet left America so far as we learn.

We have been having twelve boys staying here and going to school, and they seem to be very bright boys and have expressed a desire to follow the Lord. Lately we have been making more of an effort to do some kraal-visiting although the sun is very hot. It is important that we become better acquainted with the people and "go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in" that the Lord's house might be full. I

should like to be out about every second day but none of the rest seem able to stand the sun like myself, and they have not been feeling so well lately and of course it is not advisable for me to go alone or with the little boys for any distance.

### Macha Mission, Kalomo, Oct. 27, 1907.

This quiet Sunday afternoon I will again write a few lines in my journal. We have been having very good attendance by the old people at the Sunday service and they listen attentively to the Word. Today the congregation has taken on a very different aspect. The old people were conspicuous by their absence only three being present, the rest having gone off to a funeral, but for the time some girls—six in number were present, and some young men. So there were 24 young people here and it did our hearts good to see them, may the word have fallen into some of their hearts. Two of the boys came to stay. So we now have 14. Two of the others who had been here have gone. One Kaboa was a grown boy and was here six months but we found out since that he is a bad boy and had a bad influence over the other boys, so we are glad that he has gone. I just witnessed a touching little scene. The boys came and accused one of their number of using bad language and treating two of the others badly. I talked to them a little and then told him he ought to ask forgiveness. He looked quite downcast but readily grasped the hands of the two and asked them to forgive him. Which they readily did. It was their first experience of the kind, but the Lord is moving them on step by step to know Him & his ways.

Mr. Hemming has been here & gone and we are still looking for Bro. Taylor He is as far as Bulawayo at least, & perhaps nearer. The wagon has been in Kalomo nearly three weeks. I sent for it to come but Mr. H. kept it there thinking the goods would soon be there. I hope and pray we may see both the goods & Bro. Taylor this week. Gomo is with the wagon & has been much perplexed as to know what to do.

### Macha Mission

#### Choma. Aug 16, 1908.

It has been nearly a year since I wrote in my journal but a busy year it has been, and I can now give only an outline of some of the things which transpired. On Nov. 10 of last year Bro. Taylor came to our aid, and we were glad for his presence and help. The latter part of Dec. he took down with fever & heart & nervous disorder and for a week was very near death's door but the Lord heard and answered the prayers offered in his behalf, so that he was raised up but he was not fully restored until the latter part of April. He felt that the Lord wished him especially to devote himself to the spiritual part of the work, so that did not relieve me much of the oversight of the manual labor, at the time. The latter part of April Sister Engle Bro. T. David, five of the school boys and myself made a trip to the mission station at Nanzele about 60 miles Northwest from here. We had a most enjoyable visit with Rev. & Mrs. Price. We found that they did not have a favorable impression of us and we believe that our visit and our becoming acquainted with them tended to remove the prejudice they had against us. They were frank enough to acknowledge the latter and to say they would wait another time until they knew the parties before judging. Rev. Smith who had prepared the hand book of the language and translated Mark etc is now in England and is not likely to return and Mr Price urges me to take up the work of translation. I certainly do not feel fit or prepared for such a task as I am not good in the language and am so rusty in my Greek, but I am in His hands, if He sees fit to use me in that way and can, let Him command what little powers I have. I seem unable to get any time to put on the language now.

Bro. & Sister Wenger came to our aid June 10, and Bro. and Sister Steigerwald also came to see us which we greatly enjoyed, but when they returned home Gomo went with them to remain & David & Sister Engle went for a visit. It was so hard to me to see them all go at once. I just thought I could not stand it, but tried not to show it. So that at present I am the only one here who has the language well enough to speak to the people, and I must either do the interpreting or talk myself. The Brethren have been making brick toward building a better house. But we shall have to wait for means before building more. Bro Wenger is going to do the building, at present and Bro. Taylor see to the farm work. We have had twenty boys and over this year so far and they are good boys, and have given their hearts to the Lord, and are wakling [walking] in all the light they have, I believe. A number of the older men have expressed themselves as desiring to follow the Lord, but I am afraid they have not yet become willing to cast off the works of darkness.

Since my last writing in my Journal, the Lord has called me to go through some severe tests, so much so that I felt it perhaps to be the Lords will to resign my connection with the Lord's work at this place. I passed through some deep deep waters. Only the Lord knows all about it, and only He understands. I am determined to go the entire way with the Lord whatever the cost. It is sufficient to know that He knows all about it. I praise Him for the overcoming grace He gives me day by day and for the sweet peace and fellowship in the Lord. My prayer is that if there is anything in my life of which he does not yet have full control, that He may reveal it and may take control completely.

### Macha Mission Sept 5, 1908

I have no place to go but to you my journal and to my Lord, but I am thankful He is ever near, and I need never, never, fear.

Today has been a busy day teaching cooking, making yeast cakes, having fresh mud floor put in the dining room, and this evening has been a good little prayer meeting. The Lord has met with us. Praise His name.

Some way I cannot analyze my feelings for some time past. I feel that the Lord is very near, and yet I feel burdened almost constantly. The cause or all the cause I do not know. I could weep at any time and many times I can scarcely refrain from it before others. One thing that concerns me much is the services here. Our congregations are large 140 last Sunday and all they get of the Work [Word] is from my imperfect chitongo. When I talk myself, they perhaps get a little, but when I interpret for Bro. Taylor or Wenger, it is very little indeed that the people get. The Brethren think they understand and I do not like to say anything for fear they think I do not want them to speak. Last Sunday when I tried to interpret for Bro. Wenger before all those, I was so weak and trembly for I know they got very little out of the message. My God what shall I do? We are here to give these people the Gospel. I have so much to do I can find very little time to put on the language.

While this burdens me, I cannot feel that it is all. I feel so shut up, and I do not feel as great an interest in the work as I used to do. I do not feel at ease or myself. The words of the Psalmist so often comes to me, "Oh! that I had the wings of a dove then would I fly away and be at rest." I have been beseeching the Lord to draw me nearer and nearer to himself, and perhaps this is the wooing of His Spirit. Well, I am in His hands and I want all He has for me at whatever cost. I have to praise him for the victory He has been giving me in trials and tests; and yet I feel there are greater depths for me to be sunk into the ocean of God's love out of the reach of my surrounding; That when I am tried in the fire, I may come out without even the smell of the fire upon me.



## Macha Mission, Dec 26, 1908

Sister Mary writes that she wants me to be sure and keep up my diary. Well, I have never kept a diary only these few jottings in a journal which are so few that they give only a general outline of our life and scarcely that.

We have been having some hard places to pass thro[ugh] financially. Our oxen were bitten by the tsetse fly on the way to Nanzela Mission in May and 9 of them died. It is indeed a big loss for a mission station. I do not know what the people at home will think about it. No doubt many will censure us for going but they cannot feel worse about it than we do. Money has been quite scarce, this year and yet the Lord did not allow us to lack any needful thing. Perhaps the nearest to that was when our semiannual supplies were to be brought us the first of Nov. We had only 8 oxen to draw the wagon and they were not very good two being sick & the rest small. Bro. Taylor took along 5 of the largest school boys to help carry the goods if need be over the sprints. They had 34 miles to haul the goods and got within 14 miles of the mission when the oxen gave out and to make the situation worse, there was no pasture between that & here. So he had four of the boys bring what they could carry and come on for help. We got four men and 20 school boys and sent them out. The first night they were at the wagon two lions attacked and killed or rather bit an ox so that it died. Bro. Taylor as well as the boys were in great danger that night but the Lord too[k] care of them all. Finally after two trips the goods were all brought home, but the wagon had to wait until later.

We have no more oxen than we had, but money had come so that we may buy some as soon as we have an opportunity.

Bro. Taylor has had a busy time trying to get the crops out as we have only six oxen but we have had 32 school boys staying here, and they did good work digging and planting. I trust the Lord will send us and especially the natives good crops. The poor people have been very destitute the past year on account of the scarcity of rain last year. We tried to do what we could for them, but that was very little, and Oh it was so trying to have them come asking for food or even wanting to buy I felt that I would be willing to do with one meal a day myself if that would do any good. Some times I had to try to steel my heart against their entreaties or I could not stand it.

Yesterday we had Christmas exercises in which our 33 boys took part and did well. About 200 people were present, and we had the Christmas sermon first then treated the people to a good substantial meal of meat & porridge, after which were the sc[h]ool services. Now most of the boys have gone home for vacation only 13 remain to work through the two weeks vacation.

I came very near breaking down this week, and thot once I should not be able to finish the few remaining days of school. Perhaps I try to do more than I should, but there was the school and sewing for the boys, the services, and the hardest perhaps was that I could not relax when I did try to lie down to rest, there would always be someone come and want some thing so that my nerves just about collapsed. I checked up working for a day or two and am feeling pretty well this evening again although this has been a busy day for me.

The Commissioner from Kalomo has been our guest to-day and tonight our yard is full of his outfit of messengers and retainers and his tent.

## Macha Mission

Dec. 31, 1908.

Since my last writing it has been rain, rain, but this evening the weather looks somewhat settled.

I have been trying to rest this week but still I was doing a little cooking washing and writing letters also a little gardening, any and all of these seem like rest compared with how I was rushed before, and I am feeling somewhat better. The hardest is that my eyes do not allow me to read much. I never knew what it was to spare my eyes and perhaps as I get rested a little more my eyes will be stronger. I have so many letters that ought to be written and I should like to get them off my hands before the next mail goes. I wrote three, to Henry, Frank Brechbill, & Bro Hoover, today so that much.

Well this is the last day of the old year. It's work has been finished. In some ways it has been full of trials for me but also full of precious lessons. I trust that they have been so thoroughly learned that the Lord will not need to give me the same again. The year is closing pleasantly and we are all well and so far as I know all happy. I praise the Lord for his kind care over us all and for the dear boys who have come to us to be taught may He find some among them that will be useful in his vineyard. At present we have a little famine child here, came, Sunday and it looks better already.

My prayer this evening is "Search me O Lord and try my heart and see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting." I have been trying to listen to His voice today and I feel that all is well, only my heart reaches out after more of Him, that I may help other's better to know Him.

## Macha Mission, Jan. 17, 1909.

I have been sitting in heavenly places in Christ Jesus this morning's hour. Why He so loves me I know not, but I do thank Him for helping me to see Him thro, all things, and to get a clearer revelation of His blessed self this morning. Some way as I have in my room been singing, it seems to me that He makes my heart sing most when the waters are deepet [deepest]. Perhaps He thus permits me to sing and shout for joy so that I can keep my head above the waters. Three hymns have welled up in my heart this morning and every word breathed out the deepest longing of my soul. The first was "Fix your eyes on Jesus." Then came "I do not ask for earthly store," every word of which was my most heartfelt and deepest prayer. The third verse

"Whate'er the crosses mine shall be

I will not dare to shun

I only ask to live for Thee

And that Thy will be done," comes so close.

"For rest is sweet (o so sweet) at Jesus feet. While homeward faith keeps winging."

Then No. 181, "He knows." What a precious thought, "He holds me in His own right hand and will not let me go." It is so precious to know that our blessed Saviour does not leave me alone. He understands tho no one else may.

Things had been going on very nicely, and every one seemed happy in his work. Bro. W's seemed to be getting more settled in the work and better satisfied and were getting down to the language. I do not think at any time that they have made up their minds to stay any length of time, however. It is too hard for them to be so far away from their people. Then they have always lived a sheltered life and had all the comforts money could

buy and everything as they wanted it. And this is too much of a change for them. She thinks he cannot stand the climate etc. etc. However they had become willing to stay and put up a house for us if the money came for the purpose. While the Board has not sent us any yet for the purpose, yet our \$244 the same as the other missions came to us and nearly \$200 private money. We have lately been able to purchase 5 oxen at very reasonable prices and only one more will make the team of 12 complete. The Gov. sent us word that they will soon come to survey the land, so that every thing has lately been looking favorable. The boys have come back to school crops are growing nicely etc.

In the midst of this Bro. Taylor came to me Last Tuesday noon 12th and said that he was going to leave. I called Bro. & Sister Wenger and we tried to find out the difficulty, but could get no satisfaction in any way. It was quite a mystery to all of us as we thought things were going smoothly. I examined myself and Bro. W- did the same, but we could find out no cause in any way, except Bro. Wenger said that he had told Bro. Taylor on Monday or rather Sunday that, if money did not come to build, they were going home after the rains were over. Bro. Taylor said he would like to have some one relieve him so that he could give his attention to kraal visiting as he always felt called to do, and Bro W. did not feel to do that.

This decisions of brother Taylor's has set very hard on Bro Wenger's so that he has been sick ever since. He feels that it is tying him to the place. Nevertheless they wrote for money to come home this last mail.

I have found out from Bro Taylor since that he expects to go north among the Baila to give them the Gospel, and that Bro. Wenger's explanation of the matter is correct. He does not feel to consult with Bro. Steigerwald or the Board and feels that is the Lord's work for him. However this is the worst part of the season for him to be out, and I shall not be surprised to hear of him sick or dead soon, but when he makes up his mind on any line, it is useless to say any thing. If he would have been willing to wait until the rains are over there would have been away. I, however, sympathize with him in going greatly. It is just the kind of work I have always longed to do and is my idea of mission work, and my prayers go with him. He wanted to go with only one boy on account of his scarcity of money and he is not willing to take anything from fund and lack of food this time of year, but I could not think of that and as I have on hands £2 of my own, I am giving that toward another boy, so he is to have two christian boys with him I think he should have three. The special donations were sent especially to me as some was sent to the others. Yet when money is sent to me I feel that since I have charge of the work it is meant for the work in general and I do not like to use it except by the consent of the rest. Bro. Taylor's move is somewhat equivalent to an independent move.

I know I shall receive my censure from many sources, as if any thing goes wrong I am generally conceded to be the faulty one, and some time ago when differences came up between some, I was going to write to Bro. Steigerwald and ask for advice and did write, but before sending it off, Ex 14:14 "The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." And it came so unlooked for and with such force that I felt I did not dare disobey and so the letter was burned. It is always so unsatisfactory this letter-writing and so liable to be misunderstood. So I am sweetly resting in Him hid away realizing He at least understands. May He keep me from doing anything that would hinder His cause in this needy land; and though the way may seem dark and troubled at times may my eyes be fixed upon Him.

This is a rainy Sunday, and the river are so high that the attendance at church will do doubt be small. Seven of the boys went to meet David at the train at Choma. I am glad he is coming but they are having a rainy time and are liable to get sick.

## Macha Mission, Jan 29, 1909

The rain has just been coming in floods for nearly two hours. It is by far the heaviest of the season so far, and I wonder where Bro. Taylor and the boys are. If there is such a rain where he is, he will certainly be drenched as it is not an easy matter to keep dry here and much less in a native hut. He left the 19th, and has now been away ten days. May the Lord care for him. We can do nothing but pray for him.

His going and taking one of the school boys also other reasons led to a dissatisfaction and restlessness among the boys and some left and others were on the point of leaving but have finally settled down. We have 27 without the herd boy.

David came all right, but he got wet and has been sick ever since. He is feeling better today. So I have of course been busy with the school & other work, but am still in hopes of getting at the language after a while. It does me good to see David again. He is just like a son or younger brother. Of course like all of us he has his faults and has a little pride that he could do without. He says he thinks Gomo would be ready to come back if we would send for him. Sister Engle writes that she is deep in the temporal work at Matopo's. I am afraid she may get sick.

## Macha Mission March 11, 1909.

Praise waiteth for the[e] O God. I have much to thank God for this evening, for health & strength to continue in the work until this another birth day. I am 49 years old today. An old woman as the world goes and yet the dear Father wonderfully renews my strength from day today. What am I indeed that He so wonderfully keeps me in health all these years. Is it because he loves me so or because He loves the people by whom I am surrounded, or both? Oh! I am so unworthy to lift his name up before them, and yet I am here and in His hands for to do with me as he can with such an unworthy vessel. I realize I am more of a battle ax and weapon of warfare than that I am a vessel unto honor in His cause.

Well, we heard from Bro Taylor three weeks ago and he was well and seemed much encouraged in his evangelistic work, and writes that the boys are a great help to him. May the Lord indeed make Him a blessing to many dear souls and help him in the language. How I wish some of our people would feel led to come out and start a mission station there. Bro. T. does not feel led to do that.

Bro Wenger & Sister had seemingly made up their minds to stay and help erect a house and as much longer as the Lord directed. Things were taking on a brighter aspect, but the past week he has been sick and they have decided to leave as soon as he feels well enough to go, whether Sister Engle is here or not. I feel sorry for them, but then they enjoy the thoughts of going and it would be a misfortune to me to have to leave the work.

I do not know what we shall do about the building. About £80 more has come in so we would probably have about enough to put a small substantial building. If that was done, Sister Engle and I with David could get along very well and perhaps get more real mission work done than we do when there are so many. So many thoughts have been going through my mind lately as to how we can get the Gospel to more people, and yet this prayer has been uppermost that we know the mind of the Lord in all these things and be right in line with his will, then we know things will go right.

I am at last started in to try to do some translation from the Greek[.] I began a[t] the First of Luke and have only got as far as the 22 verse of the first chapter, but that is at least a beginning. It goes slow for I am quite rusty in the Greek and do not know the Chila very well yet I am much encouraged and am enjoying it.

When Rev Price mentioned to me about translating, it just seemed an impossibility, I felt too incompetent, and of course now I do not know how satisfactory this will be, but I believe the Lord wants me to push on & do what I can, and by His help I want to persevere; for we certainly need more of the Scripture to place in the hands of these boys so that they can read it in their homes, as well as for the missionaries themselves.

My dear Father I am in Thy hands and help that I may just be a passive instrument to wield as thou dost see fit in getting the Gospel to these dear people over whom thy great heart of love has so long yearned.

### Macha Mission Mar 14, '09

Well another day has passed.

Arose at the faintest dawn and after bath & dressing had prayer. As this was mail day I prayed as often before that I might be prepared for good news bad news or no news. Then went out and staked off a place for a double chicken coop. Had prayers with the 25 boys, assigned them their work, taught David an hour, got breakfast, worked a little at the chicken coop. Spent over an hour in translation, then the mail came and with it 31 letters for me a birthday shower, with kind words from GO persons. It was a little after my birthday but that did not make the messages any the less dear.

As I sat reading them smiles and tears and Praise the Lords' chased themselves one after another. It seemed as if I had a visit at home. May the Lord dear Lord bless all for their messages of love. Not quite all the family wrote. I could get only a part read before dinner but while I was preparing dinner tears of joy streamed down continually over my face. After dinner I finished reading them and then went out to work at my coop as some chicks will soon be hatched and there is no place for them. Then this evening I again looked over the letters.

### Macha Mission April 3, '09.

Well this is Saturday night the end of another busy, busy week. It seems that there is more and more to see after. The 21st of March after the services here, some of the boys and myself went to one of the kraals to hold services and while we were thus engaged James came bringing word that Bro. Taylor was on the way home and was sick and needed carriers to bring him home. We secured three at the kraals where we were at and others here and sent them on at once with a stretcher. They brought him the next morning. While he was sick he was not so bad as I expected. He has been up and down with the fever ever since so that he has not been able to see about the boys and any of the work, yet I am very thankful that he is no worse Bro. Wenger is not well most of the time either so I have to see after the work of the boys about ever since the holidays.

I feel very sorry for Bro. Wenger, as he seems to want to stay and build and yet does not seem able to do so. They have been changing their minds back and forth about going and staying and seem to have concluded that they would leave in about two weeks. They would likely have left before Sister Engle came even if Bro. Taylor had not come. Oh! well any where with Jesus I am not alone.

Notwithstanding all these things on the 23rd we staked off the house and put the boys to work digging the place for foundation and hauling stone. Bro. Wenger was able to see to it part of the time and get David started. David has been doing real well in laying the foundation so we shall keep on doing all we can toward putting up the building although we do not yet have money enough to finish it but we must keep on looking to the Lord to supply the needed funds. It was difficult to know whether it was the Lord's will or not that we commence the house now. I prayed much and so far as I could understand it was the Lord's will for us to go ahead and there would be some way for us. Bro. Taylor has never done any thing at building. David knows more about it than he does. The Lord has never failed us yet when we looked to him and He will not now. How many many difficult places he has helped us over. Praise His Name!

April 21, 1909

Bro Wenger has not been well very much of the time and Bro. Taylor has been down with the fever ever since returning. That comes from the exposure he had while on his two months trip up north. Yet he will not consent to think he made a mistake in going at that time.

The past week the waters seemed to almost overflow. A week ago yesterday I had a letter from the ~~Board~~ Bro Steigerwald stating "A letter from the F.M. Board reached us last evening in which they make mention of trouble existing at Macha in they way of discord among the workers. The Board has put it on me to inguire into the matter at the earliest possible date to try to bring about a reconciliation." etc. This is the result of a letter written to the Board by Bro. Wenger's last Nov. At that time however, They had trouble with Bro. Taylor. However, I am not surprised that the blame should rest on me when I read the rest that he[,] Bro Steigerwald[,] wrote. Bro. T. acknowledged when he was near deaths door that he came here with rebellion in his heart toward me on account of a letter I had written him urging him to come on when he was to Cape Town. Later when I gave him the letter to read that the Board had written to me, He said he did not see how ~~the Board~~ could have written differently to him. I felt the rebellion as soon as he came and it continued. He was sick most of the time before the others came and when he would feel better a few days he seemed to change every thing around from the way I had told the boys to do. Yet I always felt he was honest but much set in his way because he had lived alone 12 years and had every thing his own way. But Bro. Steigerwald's letter throws light on some things. He says, "I do not wish to plead ignorance as to the existing trouble. I was informed of it before the last worker (Wengers) went up. On the way up last year I spoke to them about it. While on our way out from Kalomo we heard more about it. The new workers said at once, they would not remain under such conditions and asked me what to do." etc.

From this it seems that Bro. T. had written to Bro Steigerwald and they all he Bro T. and the rest had a talk about it on the way out form Kalomo. So that the new workers came prejudiced too. As Bro. S. says farther in his letter that they find fault with me that I am too hard to suit and have no confidence in them. Bro. Steigerwald never said any thing about this to me, nor does he ask for my side of the work, but he takes it for granted that the report is so and admonishes me to right the trouble.

Since I read his letter I am not surprised at the condition of things the first four months they Bro. W's were here. They & Bro. T. were together talking every chance they had, and I was all alone as all the rest had left and I was often afraid to open my mouth about any thing, and fault was found with me continually. It seemed to me as if others had crept in unawares to spy out my liberties. God only knows what I went thro and how he enabled me to hold my peace under the most trying circumstances. This continued until they had some

differences, then I was accused of consulting with Bro Taylor & not telling them. Which again was false. This new year and the last month of last year I feel that we understand one another better, and no doubt if Bro. Wengers had waited until now quite a different letter would have been written. They have now written about going home because his health is so poor.

I did not know what to do often times after they disagreed because the two men had quite opposite views on some things and both were very strong, and both seemed to want things done their way.

When this letter came, I went out alone with the Lord most of the day, to know the mind of the Lord. I examined myself thoroughly in the light the Lord gave me and could not help feel that wherein I had spoken unguardedly and did things that I should not I had tried to make them right and I could not see what else I could do. I would have read the letter to them, but saw that that would make matters worse instead of better. Then too there ought to be a man here and if I am in the way of any staying I must get out of it. No man likes to have a woman in charge where they are. I could see only one step, and that was to hand in my resignation to the Board and ask them to appoint some one else in my place. No doubt this will be a relief to them. But it seemed to me that I was drinking the dregs, because I shall have to leave Macha. It will be better and easier for me and whoever comes. So the letter has gone. It seems too mean to sit down and recount the faults of others and I am willing to suffer in silence and bear all the blame rather than do that. I am so thankful the Father knows all about it. Other people have to judge by what they hear, but he sees into our hearts. O! I am so sorry for the Cause at this place. It has suffered so much and the way does not look bright before it, and yet I hope the Lord knows the way and will raise up some one with a heart full of love to this people, to take up the work and carry it on to His glory. My prayer is that if the Lord sees best he will open the way for me to have some little corner here where I can still go out among the people and give my time to the study and translation of the language. I have not told any one of my resignation except I wrote it to Sister Mary, as also some of the particulars. She is away from the rest.

### Macha Mission Choma, April 30, 1909

Since my last letter Bro. Wenger has been down with the fever and Bro. Taylor has had some of it.

Bro. Wenger became much concerned about himself, and was afraid he was going to die although to me his symptoms did not seem serious. How ever it was sufficient for him to want to clear up things and make a confession which he did. It seems that Bro. Steigerwald told him a great deal about me and made my faults very glaring to him before coming here and then Bro. Taylor and he Bro S. kept it up on the way out from Kalomo. And while Eld. S. was here that was the main talk of the three when not in my presence, so Bro. Wenger says. It surely seems too bad to be true. I do not want to misjudge the motive but I have to think of the first meeting with the natives after they came I of course expected to keep quiet when there were so many ministers present. But all sat there and had nothing to say. I said "Lord what does this mean? Do you want me to speak?" Quickly the message came and I gave it as it was given me, and two made a start for the kingdom. It was as unexpected to me as to any one. But all had to acknowledge it was of the Lord for me to speak. The question forces itself upon me time and again as the Lord condescends to use me. Will the Lord use an unclean vessel? Am I so much in fault? He Bro. T. says the reason he gave the Board was that I wanted to run things and it was out of place for a woman to have charge when there were two men here. I said, "Why did you give me as the cause when you and Bro. Taylor were having trouble at the time you wrote and not me. I was entirely innocent." "Well," he said, "I told Docia that if I could not get along with either I am going home." He

had to acknowledge that he told his wife at different times that he was surprised at how meekly I could take things & hold my place. Oh! how often I thanked the Lord for helping me to hold my tongue under some of those trying times.

While He is no doubt in fault much yet his make up is weak and nervous and one cannot expect so much of him. But what can one say of the Elder who instead of seeking to help things to move harmoniously should so thoroughly prejudice the minds of others before they come here that they should be continually looking for one's faults and misjudge one's motives.

The more I pray and the more I think over it, the more I feel that it was of the Lord for me to write to the Board severing my connection with the rest of the workers. But Oh! the future looks so dark. Where am I to go? What am I to do? I do so long to live in peace and devote my time to this dear people. I almost feel like saying, "My God my God why hast thou forsaken me?" and yet I feel that he has not forsaken me, although He seems to be hiding His face for a little season. Oh! I want to be as clay in His dear hands and let him work out His own good will in my life. Lord Jesus, I know that nothing comes to me without Thy permission. Thou hast a purpose in it all. Help me to know and understand it all and be rightly exercised by it, meek and humble looking up into thy face and learning the lesson Thou dost give me. I believe thou hast brought me here and that thou didst open the way before me, and now if it is thy will that these men come and drive me away, I am willing to drink even that drought, only do Thou make the way very plain before my feet. May I make no move that is not of Thee. Thou knowest the way that I should take, help me to see it and be willing to take it.

#### Macha Mission May 9, 1909.

Yesterday and today have been so dark I could weep all the time. My blessed Saviour's word's in the garden come again and again to me. "If it be possible let this cup pass from me," but yet I feel thankful that I can still say, "Nevertheless not my will but thine be done." How can I sever my connection with this work so dear to me? and yet under the circumstances how can I remain? Bro. Wengers & I have talked over the matter and every thing is right so far as I know. He says Bro. Steigerwald intimated to him that the only thing for me to do was to resign, and so I suppose he will rejoice to get me out of the way. Then to think how Bro. Taylor talked to Bro. Wenger about me before they got here, and since, even when he was down sick and I was doing all I could to care for him, he was telling me one story and Bro. Wenger another. Well, I am glad for this that I have only my own faults to answer for. That is quite sufficient. But my Father help me not to sink in the troubled waters around me, but keep my eyes fixed on Thee, and my hand in Thine, and then I know I cannot fail. Make straight paths for my feet. Give me control over my feelings so that I may not make others feel sad on my account. Help me to be trusting and cheerful and interested in the work while my stay is at this place, and do all Thou dost give me so that I may be free from the blood of this people. But I feel as if my tongue were tied my hands and my heart.

#### Macha Mission June 17, 1909.

Well much has transpired since my last entry in my journal, and since so much has been written I might as well add the rest.

Sister Engle sent word she would be at Choma on May 15, and that Bro. Steigerwald and Doner would come along to help with the house and to go on farther north. On account of his health Bro. W's had decided to leave at that time. David had been doing nicely at the house and the door & window frames were in



and the brick work about up to the top of them. Bro. Taylor was some what better and went along with Bro. Wengers to Choma Station and to meet the rest. I stayed at home with David and the boys to get things in readiness for the rest. I felt very depressed as I had been very busy and then too I suppose I was beginning to feel the need of a change more than I knew. The world was looking very narrow and dark to me, then I was not anxious to meet some who were coming on account of what had passed.

The second day after the wagon left May 13th, I took down with my first attack of fever. There was no one here but David to care for me but he was as kind as any son could have been. The wagon was away eight days. The fever went up to 105° one night, but we got it in check. The chief trouble was with my head. That kept very bad even after the fever stopped. My body was strong all the time, but my head! I got up just before the wagon reached here and was able to meet them. They were of course surprised to learn that I had been sick as no one was used to that, & I do not think I would have succumbed this time had I not been so run down in mind and body. They were very kind and the conversation at the supper table somewhat cheered me, and when I retired, I thought I might be able to sleep as I had not been able to do that for several nights; but as soon as I got alone and quiet, my brain seemed on fire like some mighty engine which had gotten beyond control and Oh! how I suffered! There was no raving and I was perfectly conscious of it all, but all that I had suffered and borne in silence kept rolling through my mind and I longed for one sympathetic soul to pour out my heart to talk and talk to until I was through, but something told me there was none who would see things from my point of view. How I wished the Lord would take me home! Not a wink of sleep came to my eyes that night and I realized that my mind had slipped from my control and that something would happen before another such a night would be passed. I did not want to tell them why I had written to the Board as I did, because I did not want to make more trouble than necessary, then too I felt all along that any thing I might say would not be accepted. In the morning I arose early and told the rest what a night I had passed and that things had slipped beyond my control and could not tell what might happen. Sure enough at the breakfast table I broke down and told why I had resigned and about the Eld.'s letter and what Bro Wenger had said then I had to go to bed. The next night when alone I had somewhat a similar experience and thought congestion of the brain might result before morning or even death and that if I had any thing to say I must say it then. I did say some things about my call and how the Lord had laid upon me the burden of pushing on his work as he said he had to take what He could get even though it was a weak unworthy woman. I felt no condemnation but was ready to go and had nothing against any one, that I felt or hoped the trouble could be satisfactorily settled. I could not help feeling at the time although I did not say it, that there were some the Lord wanted to get down before him and confess some things. I felt as if I could not take up the burden of life again. One thing that especially concerned me was, that I could not discern the Lord's will for me for the future. I could not think of leaving Macha and could not see my way clear to remain.

When I got better and I frankly told the rest some of my feelings, They Bro Steigerwald told me that they thought I had taken the place of a man long enough and the time had come for me to be in subjection. I accepted this as well as many other things that were said as one of the "all things," and as the matter was talked over more and more that the dissatisfaction resulted from the fact the Board had seen fit to leave me in charge although they had sent out two men. I asked the Board to put a man in charge but reserved for myself the right to wait on the Lord until I was clear as to His will for me. The more I talked with the Elder the more I saw what the Lord showed me at first that my testimony would not be accepted. He says that I want home for the purpose of getting money to get a place to run myself and that I did not want a man to have charge. Well, I am glad the Lord knows and understands, and I am anxious to know and understand His will. The future certainly

looks dark, and I would so much long to go to the seashore and wait on the Lord until I know his will. There is one thing that looks so unreasonable to me. They acknowledge the Lord uses me and speaks through me and yet say that I have been much out of place otherwise because I have not been in subjection like a woman ought to be. How can the Lord use me if I am so much out of place.

A week ago Sunday when I had the service, I was much in prayer that the Lord might in some way manifest His presence so that I might know that I was indeed in divine order and not all wrong as the rest pronounce me to be. During the giving of His word He just seemed to take hold of me and speak through me as He has not for a long time and I felt that His approval was upon me.

### Macha Mission July 17, '09

The troubles through which I have been passing have rested on me pretty heavily since my last letter. Bros Steiger- & Doner helped with the house for two weeks then went on a trip north to look at the country and the prospects for mission work. They were gone a month and then helped with the house two days and returned home. I had a talk with Bro. Steigerwald before he left and while he justified himself in every thing he had done yet I have more sympathy with him on account of some of the influences brought to bear upon him. I had hoped that some of the things Bro. Wengers had said he told them were false, but he acknowledges that he said them, and he was not willing to hear my side of some of the things others told him. I said but you listened to the other side. He acknowledged he did. Well, the Lord knows all about it. They seem to want me to remain at Macha although they think a man should be in charge. That is all right, but there has been so much said about me and I have been criticized so much and every one justifies himself in it, so that I can see no chance for me. The past year I tried so hard under the most adverse circumstances possible, yet whatever trouble arose, even though I may have had no hand in it seems to be chiefly laid at my door. Bro. S. never worked with the rest or he might have reason to change some of his views. Then too I cannot yet see that I have been so much out of place if I have had charge and did some of the things which falls to the lot of man. My training before coming to the field was more of a man than of a woman. I worked with men as a member of the faculty and was treated as an equal, and no doubt they often gave me the preference because I was a woman. I believe the Lord called me because I had more experience along some lines than many of our people. He wanted some one who was not afraid of obstacles and would be a help in a new country, and so quite unexpectedly to myself He laid hands on me. No doubt because he saw I would listen. Had He wanted a nice modest womanly woman, He no doubt would have chosen such. I had felt that I was misunderstood ever since I have been in the mission field, and that feeling has become a conviction.

All acknowledge that Macha is a good opening and a good start has been made and yet it seems that those who went thro the hardship of opening are not fit to carry it on. No doubt I need submission, and things look darker to me because I have been so long here without a change. But certainly I cannot understand just what the Lord would have me do. [P]erhaps one difficulty has been because I was not willing to do it. Last night I had a blessed season with the Lord and surrendered myself anew to Him and became willing to do whatever the Lord's will is as soon as He makes his will clear to me, and I believe He will reveal it in His own time. It may be hard, but I did not come out here to do my own will. He chose me and sent me and I am His to do with as it seemeth best in His sight. Whatever he wills for me, He will give me strength to perform. May His loving arms hold me to that and not let me draw back.

Sister Engle and I have been out among the people a great deal lately and I have greatly enjoyed it.

## Macha Mission Choma, Sept 25, 1909.

It has now been over two months since my last writing and they have been two hard months. My mind is not clear yet and it does not seem to likely be until I can get away for a change. The physical condition still seems to affect the spiritual and at time I just feel that I must leave at once. Every thing reminds me of my loss and my present relation to the work.

Shortly after Bros S. & D. returned home, Bro. Taylor and Sister Engle became engaged. This was not much of a surprise to me, and it also explains something of Sister's E. attitude in some things. No doubt it is the will of the Lord and I trust it is the will of the Lord and feel that it is. I am sorry to be separated from Sister Engle, however, as I have always enjoyed her association as much at that of her intended has been a trial to me.

In my letter of resignation to the Board, I had mentioned the name of Bro. & S. Doner to take charge of Mach in case they had no one else in view, and they seemed willing to do so, but since these two are to be married in a month or two and they are accustomed to the language and work, I have written to Bro. Steigerwald, suggesting them and stating that I know of no one that I would rather see in charge. He writes that he has the same opinion and no doubt Bro. Taylor's will be given oversight of the work here. The next month we are expecting Eld. Jacob Engle & Bro. J. Sheets to visit the missions in behalf of the Board and Church at home, and something definite will no doubt be done in reference to the work here.

I had a letter from the Board in answer to my letter of resignation and they decline to accept my resignation among other things they say: "We positively must decline to accept your resignation. For you to step down and out would be most disastrous to our work in Africa, since you were one of the original band to the Dark Continent, and since you hold the confidence of the church at large. We expect nothing else than that you remain at the Macha Mission and prosecute the work at that place, founded by yourself and Sister Adda Engle." However, by the letter they evidently think the resignation was a hasty decision and the cause easily cured. By my later letters they may think differently and see that about the only thing to be done is to put a man in charge.

As for my self I am still in the Lord's hands, and feel confident that He will reveal His will for me in His own time, and I am praying for grace and patience to reveal His will to me in his own good time.

We have been having about forty boys here at the mission and the girls are beginning to come to school. There has been quite a stir among the boys in confessing their sins and trying to get right with God. They kept coming to me night after night to talk over their past life and be prayed with, and some of the women are becoming stirred and came to the altar. Oh! these dear people, my prayer is that the Lord may so overrule the work here and put some in charge that the work may move on to His glory and to the salvation of precious souls.

Macha Mission  
Choma N. W. R.  
Oct. 3, 1909

My heart is filled with praises today for the father's unutterable love to me, even me, He is helping me to get to the place where I can thank Him for the trials, thick and sore, that have come to me lately, and I can this morning kiss the hand that smiteth me. Praise His Holy name! He is helping me to see that it has all been done in love. I have been rebellious through it and have had unkind thoughts and said unkind things about

some of the chief actors in my sore trial and have written things in my journal and elsewhere about some, but I am beginning to see that it has all been done in love by a loving Father. Some time ago I surrendered myself to the Lord and was willing to do His will when He made His will plain, and sometimes I had complete victory over my feelings, but yet I felt it was not the Lord's will for Bro. Taylor and myself to be at one place, and I felt it would not do for me to be here when some one else came in charge that it would be hard for both the one in charge and myself. For this reason I rather dreaded to have the Brethren come to arrange matters as I felt I could not explain without telling a great deal and it did not seem right for me to tell any thing.

Last Friday was our special prayer and fast day and as I was out alone with the Lord, He began to talk to me, and to show me that He could not reveal His will for me for the future unless I was in the center of that will now, and I felt that these unkind and rebellious thought must be gotten rid of first, and that no matter what others may have said and done I only needed to give an account for myself. I just felt I must confess all out to every one I had spoken and to about whom I had spoken so the Lord blessed me at once and gave me grace to begin that evening at Prayer-meeting when I confessed how I had been feeling and said and asked them to forgive me and especially did I confess to Bro. Taylor and he forgave me. I had hoped that He too would seek to right things but perhaps that would come in time. I want to write to Bro. Steigerwald and also to those to whom I mentioned some things in my letters about my resigning etc.

Today I have been reading in the C. M. Alliance a letter commenting on the poem My spikenard and Rue.

*[2 sheets (4 pages) have been cut out of the diary]*

precious souls. I am ready for whatever He makes clear to me, to take the lowest place to stay at Macha in whatever capacity. He sees but only I want it very plain and then I know He will give grace.

Choma, N. W. R.

Nov 14, 1909.

Well I am at the station ready to go south. Since my last letter I have had some happy seasons in the Lord and it has also been a very great trial for me to leave my dear children at Macha for I do not yet know whether it is the Lord's will for me to return to the work there. Bro. Taylor went to the station to meet the brethren Eld. Engle and Bro. Sheets the two sent out from America to visit the missions reached Macha Oct 30th. Bro. Steigerwald also came up with them and we were indeed glad to have them come. Sunday we had nice services both in Chitonga and English and then on Thursday Nov 4, Sister Engle and Bro. Taylor were united in marriage by Bro. Engle. It was a notable day for the mission as the natives were invited and about 350 were present. Bro. Steigerwald gave a nice talk to the natives and then they were feasted on meat and porridge. It was a busy day for Ndhilambi as he had to interpret and had charge of the feeding the people etc. while I attended to getting our dinner and that of the boys who stay at the mission.

Then on Sunday Nov. 7 we had a nice love feast and ten of our boys were baptized and partook of the communion with us. We have certainly reason to praise the Lord for what He is doing at Macha All thought the place has passed and is passing through severe testing times yet the Lord is showering His blessings upon it. The brethren seemed much impressed with the progress of the work there and for the outlook for the future. During the past month or more there has been an average attendance of about 50 in school. They say the Board

has not seen fit to release me yet from having charge of the work, and so they were not prepared to make permanent arrangements for it. Of course the Board at home did not know that Sister Engle was to be married. I told the Brethren that I was alone and I saw that it seemed to be the best and the only thing to put Bro Taylor's in charge. They say that it is my work especially and they feel that the oversight should not be changed. if there was some one to come and help carry on the work, Bro. Taylor says he felt called to the tribe north of this but was willing to stay and take charge here if the Board said so, and so it is left that way until definite arrangements are made. I want to be in the Lord's hands so that I may know His will and when that is plain to me, I am ready to do it and to take whatever position He may see fit to place me in. For if he says so I know He will give grace.

The bitterness of the parting is past and I try to keep my eyes on Him and not think what it means to leave Macha. Brethren Engle & Steigerwald went north to look up that place again and Bro. Sheets is going with me as far as Bulawayo. If Bro. Taylor could have been willing to acknowledge some things and take his place with the rest of us, it might have been easier to adjust matters. The visiting brethren expressed themselves as not satisfied with him. Well I am in the Lord's hands and want Him to have his own way with me. I have made everything right so far as it lay in my power and feel free before my Heavenly Father, and am waiting for Him to reveal His own will to me in His own good time.

Port Shepstone, Natal, S. A.

Dec. 6, 1909.

On Monday evening Nov. 15, Bro. Sheets, Gomo and I left Choma Station for the south. We had to lay over a day in Livingstone and so in accordance with the advice of Sister Adda, I went to see the chief Surveyor about surveying the farm. I met with a very kind reception. But learned that the farm will not likely be surveyed for a year as there are no other farms to be surveyed in the neighborhood and to survey this alone would make it very expensive.

After we left Livingstone our train on the evening of the 17th our train came into collision with an elephant and the engine was derailed. It was a rather exciting time until the elephant was killed and the engine put back on the track. We were detained twelve hours.

I stopped at Bulawayo from Thursday night until Sunday and had a very pleasant visit there with Mrs. Parkins and her daughter Who seemed exceptionally glad to see me. She gave me a card with their names on and also that of her mother to remind me to pray for them. I also visited Rev. Hadfield's and Mr. Sheriffs and Sister Steigerwald & Heise came in to see me so that it was a very pleasant break in the journey. Yes and it was such a change to get among friends and feel that I could lift up my head and talk and and not be continually criticized and wrong construction put on every thing.

Nov. 21. From there I took the train south to Johannesburg and met some very pleasant people on the way. At Johannesburg I spent a week with Bro and Sister Lehman and enjoyed it. Sad to say there is much division among God's children in Johannesburg. Some are saying "Lo here is Christ" and some are saying "Lo there." Sister Lehman had invited some in for prayermeeting on Thursday and in the forenoon we had a most blessed season together. It was a real uplift to my soul. In the afternoon by their request I gave them some of our experience in opening the work at Macha. Bro. and Sister Lehman are quite unsettled in some lines. They seem to be a little like myself and look on the dark side of things. I tried to help them as the Lord gave me grace

and feel that they enjoyed my visit. I was thankful that the Lord help me greatly to possess my soul in patience and not tell of the trials I have been passing through.

Nov. 30 I took the train to Durban and stayed there over night and also had the pleasure of meeting Miss Mary Hitchcock.

Dec 2. I came to this place and took up my abode in my little room where I am boarding myself. The trip down here has been very expensive as I could not get missionary rates, but the Lord has promised to to supply all my needs, and I believe He knows I needed this change and He will supply the money to rest here a little while, also if He wants me to return He will supply the money with which to return. He knows, He knows all that is past & all before me. I am trusting Him first to over rule and arrange for the work at Macha, that man's hands may be off and God may over rule and put there just those who will best advance His cause and most glorify His name; and that real peace and harmony may prevail. It is dearer to me than life and if my return will not help to advance His cause there, I hope He will hinder so that I may not go. If He has any one else who will carry out His whole will my prayer is that he may have keen ears to discern the voice of God and a will to obey. May the Father so inspire the Board that they may be entirely under control of the Holy Spirit and so decide in harmony there with. May He inspire the visiting brethren that they may see not as man sees but as He sees and knows.

## Port Shepstone Natal

Dec. 31, 1910 [1909]

It has now been a month since my arrival at this place and it has been a real month of rest and change. I could not have found a better place to rest than this is, the fine view of the sea, the baths, the fresh tropical fruit, and the complete change in surroundings, all are helpful and restful to my tired nerves and mind. The people are most kind and generous. I have let myself be real lazy this month doing nothing worth mentioning except cooking my meals, doing a little sewing and exercising.

The Lord has been very near and precious to me and I feel that I am in harmony with His blessed will thus far. May my ears be keen to hear His voice when He does speak and my heart ready to respond to whatever He bids me.

Another year has rolled around with all that it has brought. It has been the hardest year the Lord has ever called upon me to pass through. He has had His purpose in it and while I do not even yet understand all yet I am satisfied that He does, and has allowed it to come to pass for some good purpose of His own. With the severe trials has also come great victory and it has been He alone who has brought about the victory. Praise His precious Name! I am so glad I am in His dear Hands and He always knows best. What would I do without my precious Jesus? and the confidence I have in Him that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord.

I do not know what the year before me has in store, but this I do know that I have Him and am entering upon it in His keeping and what He does is well done. I need not plan for myself. He can do all that far better than I can and I want to hold still and see the salvation of our God.

*[Two blank pages follow. At the end of the diary are 17 pages of Chitongo vocabulary and phrases.]*