

Brookfields Hotel D-14
Freetown, West Africa
August 22, 1968

Dear Colleagues,
Greetings from Sierra Leone! I had a very pleasant flight. Stopped at Dakar, Senegal and Conakry, Guinea arriving at Lungi Wednesday morning August 14th. Rev. Clyde Galow met me at the airfield and helped me obtain my visa at the immigration headquarters in Freetown. Changed my dollars into Leons Thursday morning and met with some E.U.B. people at the Galow's home in the evening: Dr. & Mrs. Stephenson from the Mission and hospital in Rodifunk; Mr. & Mrs. Sims of Freetown; Miss Jean Holcome, nurse from Kamakiwe [*Kamakwie*]; Mr. & Mrs. Daryl Reeck, Fourah Bay College.

Friday morning I visited Fourah Bay College and in the afternoon went on an outing at Hamilton Beach with the Stephensons.

The taxi drivers dash along at such a high rate of speed that it is impossible to get a glimpse of the landscape. Leaving the taxi downtown, I walked a few miles on Saturday. Freetown is a study in contrast - from Fourah Bay College to the native market on the waterfront, from

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Signal Hills' modern homes to the dirty native huts, from the well-dressed people to the ragged little beggars - not from the slums to the suburbs but rubbing elbows, packed together on the same streets and byways, beautiful buildings towering along side of the mud houses and outdoor toilets!

After church Sunday (Rev. Renner spoke), Clyde Galow took a group of us on a tour of the city. Going up-country in the afternoon, we visited churches, schools, health and

maternity centers, and the Hatfield-Arches Hospital at Rodifunk. Dinner at Dr. and Mrs. McGills' home and on to Tiama (*Taiama*) and spent the night at the Applemans' home. At Njala University on Monday, I was cordially received by Lloyd O. Bailor '60, Sr. Administrative Assistant at the college. At Bo Monday night, we stayed with Kurt and Hilde Hein.

We also visited with Abram J. Sabolek another former Otterbein student who is Principal of the Tiama (*Taiama*) Secondary School. We had a steady downpour of rain all day Tuesday which finally brought our tour to an abrupt halt about a mile from Yaniband (Clyde's Peauchoit (?) sank down into a muddy rut in the road). We slushed through the mud up to our knees to the

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Pletsch's home arriving two-and-a-half hours late for lunch! After lunch we resumed our journey through many small villages, to Moyamba arriving back in Freetown late Tuesday night. Yesterday, I had a conference with The Rev. T.S. Bangura, Education Secretary of the Sierra Leone United Christian Council and today I attended the Sierra Leone Conference and gained much insight into their educational problems. I also presented our foreign study plan. They were very receptive to the idea and readily accepted the proposal and appointed a committee to meet with me ~~and~~ to work out the details. I am meeting with the committee tomorrow. (The Rev. T.S. Bangura, Mr. A.M. Bailor, Dr. W.H. Fitzjohn, The Rev. E.L. Renner, and Mr. A.M. Bailor were appointed to the committee).

I talked with Dr. Roger Brown from the Univ. of Illinois when I was in Njala earlier this week. He is on a survey team with the U.S. agency for International Development to assess the needs of Sierra Leone in agriculture and education. He is quite anxious to initiate a teacher and administrator exchange program. Dr. D.E.B.

Chaytor, Vice Principal and acting Principal of
Njala University in Dr. S.T. Matturi's absence

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was out of town when I was in Njala. He was in Freetown today trying to get in touch with me. and finally reached me late this afternoon when I returned from the Sierra Leone Conference. He was very gracious and receptive to our foreign study plan and is willing to help in making accomodations at the Univ. for the College. Supervisors and some of our students who may be assigned to the schools in that area. Transportation and accomodations present quite a problem but I'm sure they can be worked out satisfactorily. Dr. Chaytor was also interested in a student and teacher exchange program. He will be meeting with the administrative council next week and get their reactions regarding the possibility of such a program.

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I have just returned from our committee meeting. It progressed very well; however, I won't go into details now. I have another appointment this p.m. and we will be meeting with the Ministry of Education on Monday.

Although I'm very busy, I'm enjoying every minute of my stay!

With best wishes, I remain,
Sincerely,
Mildred Stauffer

[Envelope]

[three Sierra Leone stamps. all reading Land of Iron & Diamonds; the two 5 cent stamps are pink with flowers, the 20 cent stamp beige with the seal of Sierra Leone]

Dr. Chester Addington
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Via Air Mail

[Back of envelope]

M. Stauffer

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[Transcribed by: Sara Ross 6-2-21]