

Papers of Irene
and Rev
Norman
Campbell

Reference:
CMS/ACC1010

Correspondence and diary entries written by Rev Norman Campbell (b 1916), CMS missionary in Uganda, and Irene Campbell (b 1919), between 1949 and 1972. Comprising extracts of original documents transcribed by their daughter, Sheila Hillman (née Campbell) in 2014.

The extracts span the whole of the Campbells' service with the CMS in northern Uganda including personal letters written to each other as they sailed from the UK for the first time travelling on separate ships, diary entries written by Norman Campbell in the first days after his arrival in Mombasa through the final stage of the journey to his first mission posting at Gulu, and letters written from Uganda and in the two years after their return to life in England.

Administrative history: John Norman Campbell was born in 1916. He was awarded an MA from Cambridge and married Irene Rose Holden, BA, Cambridge in 1942. Irene was born 21 January 1919. They had six children.

The Campbells first sailed for Uganda in 1949. Norman initially went out under a CMS Short Service Agreement for four years work with the Upper Nile mission stationed at Gulu in northern Uganda. In 1954, he was accepted as a missionary 'in full connexion' with the role of Assistant Education Secretary. In 1958, Norman began work at Canon Lawrence College, Lira (a church teacher training college) followed by a move to Kampala five years later and his appointment as CMS Secretary, Uganda (Regional Headquarters Staff) in January 1963. In 1964, Irene was awarded the Independence Medal for her work at the Onyakedi Home for the Disabled in Lira; she also worked in a school dispensary which served people from the surrounding

area.

Prevented from returning to Uganda due to ill-health, by Christmas 1969 Irene was living in England with the children. Norman joined them in early 1970 and started work in a parish in Bristol. He was instituted as Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Stapleton, Bristol in September 1970. Their interest in mission work continued after retiring from overseas service and Norman was actively involved with the CMS Bristol-Uganda link.

Sources: the records; CMS Candidate records (CMS/C/ATm 7); CMS minute books (CMS/G/C1); CMS year books; information supplied by the donor.

Arrangement: This collection forms part of the Church Mission Society Unofficial Papers. It has been arranged in one series.

F: Family papers.

Extent: 1 file

Access: Open

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Prepared in accordance with General International Standard Archival

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Related material: There are more records relating to Rev (John) Norman and Irene Campbell in the collections of Unofficial Papers (CMS/ACC844 and CMS/ACC846) and in the official Church Mission Society Archive (GB 0150 CMS).

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| CMS/ACC1010 F | Family papers 1 file Access: Open | 2014 |
| CMS/ACC1010 F1 | Transcriptions of selected papers of Norman and Irene Campbell Personal letters from Irene Campbell to Norman Campbell whilst sailing out to Uganda with two of their children, November-December 1949; personal letters from Norman Campbell to Irene Campbell, November-December 1949 whilst sailing out from the UK to Uganda with their eldest son; diary entries written by Norman Campbell during the final leg of his outward journey to Uganda [November 1949]-January 1950; circular letters and letters to family members written December 1953-Christmas 1972. The transcriptions include editorial comment. 1 file Access: Open | 2014 |
| CMS/ACC1010 F1/1 | Extracts of letters written by Irene Campbell November-December 1949 Transcriptions compiled from 17 letters and radio telegrams under the title: 'Extracts from letters written by Irene Campbell to Norman Campbell in November 1949 on leaving UK bound for Mombasa on the Dunnotar Castle...' Five pages. Some undated. Personal letters in which Irene shares | 2014 |

details of her journey on board ship and the first week after arriving in Uganda which is spent buying provisions, negotiating with 'the Wards' at Ngora for their car and dog, trying to learn the language and moving in to stay with the Moores.

In addition to two of the Campbells' children, fellow passengers on the Dunnotar Castle include the Andersons; two U. M. C. A. [Universities' Mission to Central Africa] sisters and the Secretary of the SCM [Student Christian Movement]. In Uganda they meet Mr Amey, the Wards, 'Phoebe' and 'Ben', Pastor Payo, 'Callon' and the Moores. As they pass along the Suez Canal, Irene meets with her father who works in Egypt. She joins in with on-board events including a fancy dress parade. Their arrival at the mission station in Gulu on Wednesday 7 December is a joyous one: 'It is really true - we are here and there was your letter waiting - and it is the most beautiful place - HOME! And we shall be happy here. // 'Gulu means heaven - and it is heavenly.'

1 item

Access: Open

Archival notes: Printed from an electronic file of 42KB (Word 2010)

CMS/ACC1010
F1/2

Extracts of letters written by Norman Campbell 18 November-12 December 1949

2014

Transcriptions compiled from 23 letters under the title: 'Extracts from letters of Norman Campbell to Irene Campbell, from UK to Mombasa in December 1949' (16 pages). Norman writes to his wife as he and their eldest son sail to Africa from Tilbury Docks, England. He gives a detailed account of onboard activity from games to bible study to community singing, his observations of the scenery they sail past and their brief excursions ashore, with frequent references to his son's reactions

and occupations.

Fellow travellers include the Bevingtons, the Ridsdales, the Gilmans, the Buxtons, five U. M. C. A. [Universities' Mission to Central Africa] sisters, a Methodist couple, two Moravians, '2 very hot Gospellers of some sort' and a Church Army Sister. Onshore visits include taking all the children on board into Marseille, visiting the home of the Dents and going with some of the crew to the headquarters of the Missions to Seamen when they stop off at Port Sudan.

In the final days of the voyage Norman sets up a Parents' Forum 'for the discussion of questions concerning the upbringing of children, especially in Africa. We had of course an evangelistic hope in mind, but were not intending to press'. He attends a meeting on 'Problems of Missionary Work'.

1 item

Access: Open

Archival notes: Printed from an electronic file of 98KB (Word 2010)

CMS/ACC1010
F1/3

Extracts from Norman Campbell's diary 2014
[November 1949]-6 January 1950

Transcriptions of entries in a diary which Norman Campbell kept whilst undertaking the final stage of the journey from the UK to his first mission posting. Entitled: 'Extracts of Norman Campbell's Diary of arriving in Mombasa and journey to Gulu in November 1949'. Seven pages.

The entries are detailed and highly descriptive starting on the day the ship docks in Mombasa and ending in the third week after their arrival in Gulu. He records his first impressions of Mombasa, the sights he and his son see as they travel by train to Gulu, and the first steps of his life at the mission.

Undated [13 December 1949]: last hours on board ship and entering the docks; staying in the Manor House Hotel, Mombasa with fellow CMS travellers; P. Ridsdale acting as interpreter.

14 December 1949: going to the YWCA to contact Miss Wells; catching the Uganda train with K. Sharpe, Fish and Perrora.

16 December 1949: arriving in Tororo; taking leave of the Ridsdales, the Buxtons and others from the ship before boarding the train for Kumi with K. Sharp and spending the night in Ngora with Mrs Amey. 'Tororo is a delightful little station, backed as it is by green grass and trees, and with gay flower beds full of poinsettia and zinnias bordering the platform.'

17 December-31 December 1949: arriving at Ngora Mission Station during the Annual Diocesan Clergy Conference and staying with H. Bennet; meeting with Max and Mary Warren; leaving for Gulu with B. Moore and the joy of being reunited with Irene [referred to in the diary as Rene or 'R'] and the rest of the family on the 18th.

1 January 1950: being called to communion by church drum; attending a reception by church elders and chiefs.

5 January 1950: learning the language; going on a 'general tour of inspection' with 'Ben' and 'Callon' including the foundation of the Deanery house which was still being built and the brickfield.

Places mentioned include Mombasa; Nairobi; Nakuru; the Rift Valley; Tororo (Kenya-Uganda border); Mbale; Ngora; Soroti and Lira.

1 item

Access: Open

Archival notes: Printed from an electronic file of 55KB (Word 2010).

Transcriptions compiled from 47 letters under the title: 'Letters from Norman Campbell 1953-1972, some to family and others to CMS', 14 pages.

Most of the correspondence comprises newsletters sent from Uganda or whilst on leave in England during Rev Campbell's service overseas, but the last four letters, August 1970-1972, were written after the family's final return to England. The names of the addressees are not given; many appear to have been written as circular letters including very brief extracts from CMS 'Link Letters' and a 'Mission Letter' but there are also letters written to absent family members with comments drawing attention to changes the recipient will notice on their return to Uganda. Both Norman and Irene Campbell are referred to in the third person throughout the correspondence and the extracts do not include the name of the writer, but it is understood from the title given to the transcriptions that the original documents were written by Norman Campbell.

Written in a newsy, informal style, the correspondence reveals the pattern of the Campbells' everyday life, with reflections on domestic routine and family events, weather conditions, local infrastructure (particularly the challenge of travelling on local roads with an unreliable car), political tensions and personal challenges as well as recording occasions such as representing the CMS at the Queen Mother's Baraza at Murchison Falls Park in February 1959 (Lira, 2 March 1959), the arrival of missionaries expelled from Southern Sudan (Kampala, 2 March 1964), and Rwanda Mission workers visiting for the consecration of Bishop Laurence Barham (Kampala, 24 March 1964).

The first letter explains the detail given in subsequent correspondence and gives a

sense of the Campbells' recognition of the importance of sharing first-hand experiences of the reality of mission life. They describe their working life and their surroundings and call for missionaries who are architects, labourers, farm instructors, and teachers, those who have 'A mission to go for God and to do for God, whatever may be required of him.' Leaving Uganda 20 years later, they feel like foreigners on returning to England (Bristol, August 1970) but, after months of separation and uprooting of their lives by Christmas of 1970 they 'both have great satisfaction in having a real home again'.

Although few details are given, there are references to work commitments including visiting 'the leper camps, old and new' (Lira, Christmas 1961), Irene's work in the school dispensary and helping with a home 'for the Blind and Disabled' at Onyakedi (Lira, Christmas 1960) and Norman's inspection of schools. Much time is given to work at the teacher training college including playing croquet and hockey and organising student work camps (Lira, October, November 1959, Christmas 1960). As CMS representative in Uganda, Norman supports the missionaries and talks with leaders of local church (Kampala, October 1963) until, in 1967, the 'business side' of this aspect of his work is handed over to the local Church.

The letters have brief references to places visited: Gulu; Soroti; Mbale; Kampala; Northern Province (Murchison Falls Park); Anaka; Ngora; Kaptagat Arms, Eldoret; Onyakedi; Tororo; Jinja; Entebbe; Kabale; Arua; Port Bell; Tanzania; Kilembe; Burundi and Dodoma.

Both Norman and Irene experience serious ill-health during their time in Uganda. In Spring 1969, events are set in motion which lead ultimately to the family's permanent return to England when Irene has pneumonia followed by an undiagnosed illness which requires her

being treated at the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London followed by many months of ill-health and ultimately the decision that she should not return to Uganda (Link letter 20 May 1969 and Christmas 1969).

1 item

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