

getting a transfer of funds, it might be understandable why these branches haven't received any financial help. We can't get the money in. President Espenshied had to go to London two or three times to get financed just to keep the mission going. So it probably is not really the Church's fault that it isn't being done. It's just conditions being the the way they are. It's most difficult.

I: You know, in some ways maybe it's not such a bad thing. If a lot of money started to come in, these people might become dependent on that. This way they've got to at least look for some source of funds there locally.

W: That's very possible. Good will come from it, whatever happens. But they do have to work out a means of exchange. Now all of the money that these people pay in the form of small contributions at the present time--and most of them are getting to a point where they are paying a little tithing on their own and making a little contribution to support the little branches--will stay in Nigeria. They've been told that none will leave, even in the form of tithing, that it will be reconverted to them in building up the Church in Nigeria. But the Church will be pouring money in on top of what they're giving, so it's going to be a blessing for those people. And this gives them hope.

But it's difficult to make a promise and then not follow through, especially when it's the Church or when you're a representative of the Church and say it will come and then it doesn't. These people expect you to keep your word, because we're representing the Lord and representing the Church. So it's been a little embarrassing.

I: Although after their experience with having to wait so long for the Church, they ought to realize that it takes time sometimes and that they have to be patient.

W: I'm certain that because they have waited so many years, and I think you've hit a point there, that they will wait. I have no fear that they will not remain faithful, in spite of all these difficulties.

I: We've come up to the time now where you received your mission call to go to Nigeria. Did you seek out that call, did you let the Brethren know you were available, or how did that come?

W: One Sunday up in our ward, the Eighteenth Ward, Ted Cannon was at church and he said, "LaMar, you know a lot of people over in Nigeria."

I: This was after he had come back?

W: A short time after he had come back. They were looking for someone to take their place when they came back. They needed missionaries over there. Frank Martin was already over there, in Enugu, and they were selecting four additional couples to go over there. So Ted came to me and asked me if I'd be willing to go. He said, "This is not a

call. I'm just feeling you out, being the executive secretary of the International Mission. If you received a call, would you go? Would you be able to go?" And I said, "Why certainly."

This must have been in December. Two or three weeks later he saw me again at a stake priesthood meeting and asked me again if we were prepared to go and how soon we could go if we were called. Then we received a letter shortly after that from President Kimball calling us to go. And they asked us to get ready as soon as we could.

I: Sister Williams, you hadn't been to Nigeria, but you'd heard about all this over the years. How did you feel when that call started to be talked about and when you got your letter finally?

NW: I was really surprised. I knew that LaMar would be happy. I knew that he was really pleased about it, because he felt as though he had a lot of unfinished work over there. His heart has been with it and with those people since the very beginning. I don't suppose there's been a day or night that he hasn't had thoughts of them. He loved them, worked with them, had a great sympathy for them, and of course understood their sincerity. You feel that right away, shortly after you meet them and talk with them. It's like talking to another person of your own race. There's no difference there.

But I was very surprised. I was happy about it, and I knew that LaMar felt like, "Well, here is an opportunity to pick up where I left off." He was very pleased.

I: What sorts of preparations did you make to go? You were fairly well aware of the conditions over there, having been there before.

W: Well, we just knew it was a warm country, and so we prepared to go to a warm country. We were psychologically prepared to go right from the very beginning, and pleased. So we accepted the call and on February 4th we went for our first orientation. Following that, of course, we went to the BYU for a few days and then packed our suitcases and left.

I: Now you were at that point not part of an organized mission. I understand that you were under the International Mission.

W: It was the International Mission, yes.

I: What instruction were you given before you left Salt Lake? What were you told that you would be doing when you got there?

W: We didn't know. We were to report to Frank Martin and he would give us an assignment when we got there. They didn't tell us exactly where. We were called to the Ghana and Nigerian--what was it? They didn't call it mission then.

NW: No, we were called "special representatives" to . . .