



Entering New Hope Town

## NEW HOPE LEPROSY MISSION

**N**ESTLED AMONG PALM TREES, sixty miles inland from Cape Palmas, Liberia, lies a strange community known as New Hope Town. It means what its name implies—New Hope—for its inhabitants are lepers. This is the story of that town and its founder, Florence Steidel.

### A DREAM COMES TRUE

A dream really came true in Florence Steidel's life. It was a God-given dream and proved to her that she was being led of the Lord in a unique and wonderful life of service.

Miss Steidel had sought to live close to the Lord for many years and had followed His leading. One evening in 1924, while she was praying, she saw herself transported to a strange place where there were throngs of poor, helpless people before her. They were fainting, falling by the wayside, dying!

"Why doesn't someone who is qualified do something to help these poor unfortunates?" was the question in her mind.

Then the Lord spoke to her heart and made it plain that she was the one who was to help. Like Moses she began to make excuses to the Lord, "I can't speak before people. I'm too timid." But the Lord assured her that He would go before her and she must lean upon Him and trust Him for whatever work He wanted to do through her.

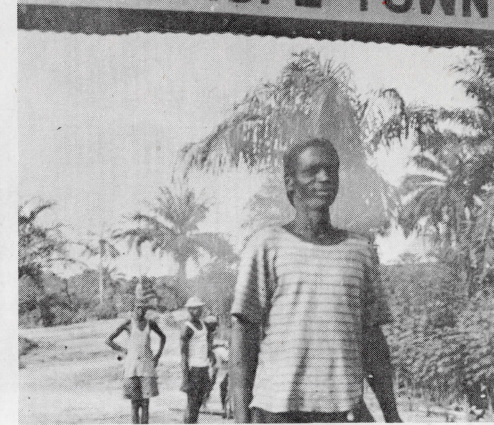
Finally she replied, "Lord, I trust you."

Later that same evening she fell asleep and dreamed of a house in Africa. She saw the exterior and interior; she saw the layout of the rooms upstairs and down. Woven mats on the walls upstairs were particularly noted in the dream. It was indicated to her that this was to be her home in Africa. Every detail in the house was noted, even to the attic room. It was as real to her as though she had seen the details with her natural eyes.

She knew that if she were to go to the foreign field she would need training, so she enrolled at the Missouri Baptist Hospital in



Brush House Town—the beginning of New Hope



Jacob Freeman was the first patient

Saint Louis, Missouri, where she received training as a nurse and graduated in 1927. She then entered a theological seminary, graduating in 1932. Through these years she depended fully upon the Lord, realizing her own helplessness apart from Him. Thus she was prepared to help the spiritually sick and treat the physically needy as well.

Every step was guided by the Lord. She felt that God wanted her in Liberia, but her own mission board was not sending missionaries to Liberia then. In 1934 she went to New York with another young missionary. They were to be sent to the Belgian Congo. However, while in New York they were directed to the Mizpah Missionary Home to stay and discovered all the missionaries staying there were affiliated with the Assemblies of God. As a result of mingling with these other missionaries Miss Steidel became hungry for the baptism with the Holy Spirit and received this wonderful experience. She felt led to affiliate with the Assemblies of God and the following year sailed for Liberia instead of the Belgian Congo, where her former companion had now gone.

Miss Steidel arrived at the Palipo mission station nine years after her dream of the house she was to occupy in Africa. Miss Ada Gollan was carrying on alone there and informed Miss Steidel that the

Mud, thatch-roofed structures are being replaced by brick, aluminum-roofed houses

