

Transcription of obituary published in the Minutes of Conference.

JOHN WILLIAM PRICE: born in 1878, was early called to preach, and when only a lad spent three and a half years travelling with the mission van connected with the Primitive Methodist Church. His evangelistic experience and zeal was to have its wider uses in his long and fruitful ministry.

After training at Hartley College he served in the following English stations: Norwich, Hull, Manchester (Chorlton-cum-Hardy), Ramsor, Dunstable, and Watton. He went as a pioneer missionary to Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) where he spent about twenty-seven years of his ministry. His first two terms were spent at Nanzhila. His association there with the Rev. E. W. Smith stimulated his interest in the language and customs of the Ba-ila and he was soon able to preach to them in their own tongue. Next he was moved to Kasenga, and his tall, erect figure could often be seen striding along bush paths when he went on tour, evangelizing and inspecting village schools. He was particularly happy with children. His first writing in the Ila language was on school hygiene. Later he collaborated in the preparation of a new edition of the Ila Hymnal for which he wrote several hymns. When a new edition of the Ila New Testament was called for he did most of the revision. Before he left the field he completed a translation of the whole of the psalms. His great love for the African people was shown in many practical ways. He found in the bush an unwanted boy named Leonard, and he and Mrs Price took the boy into their own home and brought him up. Later he found a motherless girl who was similarly taken into their own home and given all the love and security she needed. He saw all men as children of God and was vehemently opposed to all forms of racial discrimination.

During a long and trying illness his faith remained unimpaired. He was exceptionally patient and kind, and to the very end he took a lively interest in public affairs and in the Methodist Church, which he felt proud to serve. He died on 10 February 1967, in the eighty-ninth year of his age and the sixty-fourth of his ministry.

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Reference

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