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National Institute of Chiropractic Research

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Chronology of Christian Chiropractors Association

filename: Christian CHRONO 03/12/24

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Color Code:

word count: 7,482

Red & Magenta: questionable or uncertain information

Green: for emphasis

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Leads & Sources:

Mrs. Grace Brunner (Dr. Thompson's daughter), 37543 England Way,
 460 Woodlea Crescent, Red Deer County, Alberta, Canada T4S 2C3
 (gbrunner@oanet.com)

Christian Chiropractors Association, P.O. Box 9715, Ft. Collins CO
 80525-0501 (800-999-1970; 970-482-1404)

Hultgren, Glenn M, DC; 126 West Harvard Avenue, Fort Collins CO
 80525 (970-223-1941; gmhultgren@bigplanet.com); 1913 Sequoia,
 Fort Collins CO 80525

-Lyle Sherman, D.C., Ph.C. authors "Chiropractic missionaries"
 (pp. 10, 42, 44) re: Drs. Robert & Hazel Thompson; includes
 photo of both

1954 (June): **ICA Review** [8(12)] includes:

-Lyle Sherman, D.C., Ph.C. authors "Operation Ethiopia" (pp. 8,
 31)

1954 (July): **ICA Review** [9(1)] includes:

- "Contributors to 'Robert Thompson' fund" (pp. 7, 31)

1954 (Aug): **ICA Review** [9(2)] includes:

-Lyle Sherman, D.C., Ph.C. authors "Dr. Thompson's letter" (p.
 11)

1954 (Sept): **ICA International Review of Chiropractic** [9(3)]
 includes:

-R.N. Thompson, D.C., Superintendent of Southern Leper
 Colony, Ethiopia, authors "Report on leprosy (Hansen's
 disease)" (pp. 8-9, 31-2); includes many photos of lepers

1954 (Oct): **ICA International Review of Chiropractic** [9(4)]
 includes:

-Lyle W. Sherman, D.C. authors "Report to the profession on the
 Thompson project" (pp. 10, 39)

1954 (Nov): **ICA International Review of Chiropractic** [9(5)]
 includes:

- "Report from Ethiopia Southern Leper Colony" (p. 7)

1955 (Jan): **ICA International Review of Chiropractic** [9(7)]
 includes:

-Lyle Sherman, D.C., Ph.C. authors "Chiropractic equipment
 reaches Ethiopia" (p. 11)

1955 (Apr): **ICA International Review of Chiropractic** [9(10)]
 includes:

-R.N. Thompson, D.C. & H.N. Thompson, D.C. author "Report
 from Ethiopia: The first in a series of reports by two
 chiropractors working with lepers in Southern Ethiopia" (pp.
 14, 45); includes:

FUND TO \$4,923.43

Dr. Lyle Sherman of Davenport, Iowa, who is receiving
 contributions to the Robert Thompson Fund, issued this statement
 about "Operation Ethiopia":

"It is most singular that the chiropractic profession has so
 generously responded to an appeal of this sort. It illustrates that the

CHRONOLOGY

1914: Robert Norman Thompson is born in Duluth, Minnesota
 (Page, 1997)

1948 (Nov): ICA's **International Review of Chiropractic** [3(5)]
 notes:

- "Overseas Visitor" (p. 15):

Dr. Robert N. Thompson, P.S.C. '39 was a recent visitor to the
Palmer School and I.C.A. offices. Dr. Thompson and his family are
 at present stationed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he is Director of
 Provincial Education, Ministry of Education, Imperial Ethiopian
 Government. Dr. Thompson is a member of the Sudan interior
 Mission on loan to the Ethiopian Government. He is currently in the
 United States on a special mission for Emperor Haile Selassie, and
 will return to Ethiopia via Paris where he will attend the United
 Nations Security conference late in October.

Dr. Thompson enrolled in the Palmer School from Innisfail,
 Alberta, Canada. During the early years of the war he was a member
 of the R.C.A.F.

Dr. Thompson will welcome inquiries concerning the practice of
 Chiropractic in Ethiopia. He may be reached at Box 127, Addis
 Ababa.

1952 (July): **ICA International Review** [7(1)] includes:

-Dr. Thompson speaks to Y's men" (p. 16):

Dr. Robert M. Thompson, Innisfail, Alberta, recently arrived
 from Ethiopia, was one of the speakers at the Convention of the
 International Association of Y's Men's Clubs at Banff, Alberta,
 Canada, Tuesday, June 17. The subject of his talk was "Ethiopia."

Dr. Thompson was introduced by Hugh E. Chance, I.C.A.
 General Counsel, past International President of the Y's Men.

The Y's Men's Club is the service group of the Y.M.C.A. with
 clubs in 29 countries of the world.

1954 (Apr): **ICA Review** [8(10)] includes:

profession is genuinely interested in rendering a true public service that transcends selfish interests.

"This is something in which the chiropractic profession has done entirely by itself. It belies any charges that we are merely looking after our own selfish interests. And we may be justly proud of our accomplishments."

Dr. Sherman, reporting that the Robert Thompson fund has reached \$4,923.43, said that the Ethiopian project must have continued financial support – the minimum need is for \$100 a month for supplies needed to continue this research program.

1955 (Sept): **ICA International Review of Chiropractic** [10(3)] includes:

- "Two letters from Ethiopia" (pp. 10-11, 28)

1956 (Sept): **ICA International Review** [11(3)] includes:
- cover photograph:



"ETHIOPIAN D.C. - Dr. Robert N. Thompson, chiropractic missionary at the Southern Leper Colony near Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, holds a technique class with native Ethiopians whom he has been training. This is but one phase of the work being carried out by Dr. Thompson and his wife in 'Operation Ethiopia' (see article on page 6)."

- "Progress in Ethiopia: Latest report by Drs. Robert and Hazel Thompson from 'Operation Ethiopia' shows student chiropractors ready; conditions crowded; lepers healed" (pp. 6-7); many **photos**

1957 (Feb): **ICA International Review** [11(8)] includes:
- cover photograph:



"SENIOR ASSISTANT – Beyenne, one of two assistants being trained by Dr. Robert N. Thompson in Ethiopia, is ready to begin his formal chiropractic training (see page 6)

- Glenn M. Hultgren, D.C., president of the Christian Chiropractors Association, authors "Trained chiropractors for Africa" (pp. 6-7)

1957 (Apr): **ICA International Review** [11(10)] includes:

- Glenn M. Hultgren, D.C., president of Christian Chiropractors Association, authors letter to the editor (p. 48):

MORE FUND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bismarck, North Dakota

Just finished reading my copy of the February, 1957, "Review" and I want to express my thanks to you for the story you carried on the Dr. R.N. Thompson project. Your cooperation and help in our work has been most gratifying and we can't thank you enough for what you have already done for us, but we trust we can count on you for your continued support.

Would appreciate acknowledgement in the "Review" of receipt of donations from the following: Dr. Nelle Larson, Los Angeles, California; Dr. H.A. Graber, Davenport, Iowa; Dr. G.E. Brown, Logansport, Indiana; Miss Irma L. Walker, San Angelo, Texas; Dr. Roy Koffel, Logansport, Indiana.

Thanks so much.

Yours for Christian service to the profession,...

1957 (June): **ICA International Review** [11(12)] includes:

- "Letters" (p. 30) include:

FUND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bismarck, North Dakota

Here are a few more names for you to add to those you already have who have donated to the "Thompson Fund" and the "Ethiopian Student Fund."

Dr. B.S. Carswell, Atlanta, Ga.; Dr. Nelle Larson, Los Angeles, Cal.; Dr. Hazel Larson, Los Angeles, Cal.; Dr. John Grantham, Yazoo City, Miss.; Dr. E.J. McGinnis, Sumter, S.C.; Mr. V.W. Lidell, Shreveport, La.; Dr. Lloyd Pond, Farmington, N. Mex.

Drs. Kribs & Kribs, Flint, Mich.; Mrs. Amelia Ehlert, Ridgeland, Wis.; Drs. Poehard & Glaeser, Nanticoke, Penn; Dr. L.S. Frondal, Eau Claire, Wis.; Dr. Warren Sussin, Rhinebeck, N.Y.; Dr. P.A. Clark,

Corpus Christi, Tex.; Dr. C.O. Tanner, Mansfield, Ohio; Dr. George Goode, New Westminster, B.C.

Yours for Christian service to the profession.

Sincerely,

Glenn M. Hultgren, D.C.

President of the Christian Chiropractors' Association

GOOD WORK IN ETHIOPIA

Farmington, New Mexico

Just a note of appreciation for your part, and articles about the Thompsons in Ethiopia. I think their Christian chiropractic work is most wonderful and everyone should know about it and help it. Thank you again.

Sincerely, Lloyd C. Pond, D.C.

1957 (Aug): **ICA International Review**[12(2)] includes:

-“Letters: Acknowledgements” (p. 31):

Bismarck, North Dakota

We would appreciate acknowledgement in the “Review” of receipt of donations from the following to the “Thompson Fund,” and the “Ethiopian Student Fund”:

Dr. L.S. Frondal, Eau Claire, Wis.

Mrs. H.C. Scholl, Sr., Washburn, N.D.

Dr. J.J. Harman, Biloxi, Miss.

Miss Hazel Mudgett, Davenport, Iowa.

Dr. James Kubis (deceased), Burlington, Iowa.

Dr. George Goode, New Westminster, B.C.

Rev. Gordon Sandau, Mandan, N.D.

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship of the P.S.C., Davenport, Iowa.

Dr. M.W. Groskopp, Clear Lake, Wis.

Dr. Mannis Smith, Memphis, Tenn.

Dr. B.S. Carswell, Atlanta, Ga.

Dr. Brynes Fleuty, Edmonton, Alberta.

Miss Irma L. Walker, San Angelo, Texas.

Mr. V.W. Lidell, Shreveport, La.

Dr. H.A. Graber, Moline, Ill.

Dr. E.F. Lutz, Lima, Ohio.

Drs. Poehard & Glaeser, Nanticoke, Pa.

Drs. Clyde & Honor Bearden, Russellville, Ala.

Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Phillips, Los Angeles, Cal.

Mrs. James Kubis, Burlington, Iowa.

Dr. Lloyd C. Pond, Farmington, N.M.

Dr. P.A. Clark, Corpus Christi, Tex.

Thank you for your cooperation in the past and also a special thanks to all those who have so generously given to this noble project.

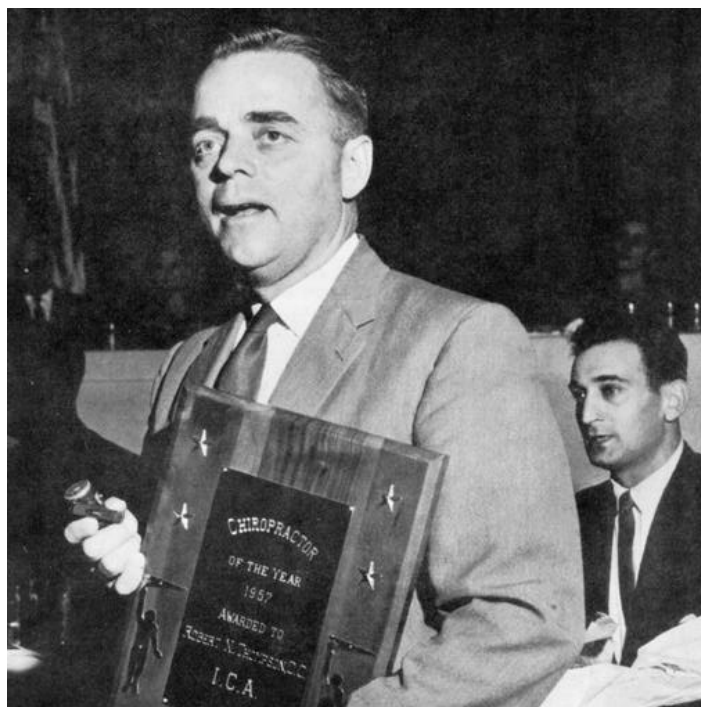
Sincerely,

Glenn M. Hultgren, D.C., President

Christian Chiropractors Association

1957 (Oct): **ICA International Review**[12(4)] includes:

-“Convention Picture Section” (center pages, unnumbered); includes many photographs, including:



“CHIROPRACTOR OF THE YEAR – Dr. Robert N. Thompson, pioneer chiropractic missionary and Superintendent of the Southern Leper Colony in Ethiopia, addresses the ICA banquet following presentation of ICA’s top award. Seated behind Dr. Thompson is Reginald Gold, Past Chairman of the Student Advisory Board, who made the presentation on behalf of the Fellows of the International Chiropractors Association.”



“QUILL CLUB AWARDS – For contributions to the field of chiropractic journalism, Drs. Samuel Keiser, Jr., and Glenn M. Hultgren receive membership certificates in the Quill Club.”

1957 (Oct/Nov): **Canadian Chiropractic Journal**[1(4)] includes:

-cover photo of Robert N. Thompson DC, MP

-R.N. Thompson DC authors “A story to tell to the nations” (pp. 11-2):

During the past generation the people of North America have been increasingly aware of the fact that we are part of one world. Modern communications and transportation has shortened months into days. Breakfast in New York, lunch in London and supper in New York again has become a proven fact as still new developments condense days into hours with the end still not in sight. To-day’s far away places and peoples have, through TV, the Press and Tourist travel, become more familiar than ones own neighbors and neighborhood a generation ago.

Such diminishing dimensions have thrown the people of the word and their Nations ever closer together. Port Said, Addis Abada, Delhi, Rangoon, Singapore and Manila are as familiar to the ears of American schoolchildren as are San Francisco, Chicago, Washington and New York are to the ears of schoolchildren in Africa, India or the Far East. Truly the vastness of the world and its peoples is fast shrinking. Europe became aware of America and the East only because of her adventurers and business men. Missionaries followed close behind with the Christian gospel as Christians became aware of the spiritual needs of the less fortunate in the world. Africa, the dark continent had its doors opened through the vision and passion of Missionary pioneers.

Famines and Wars of recent years have drawn the attention of nations and their governments to their responsibilities to the hungry, the suffering and underprivileged of the World. The appeal of these unfortunates has been so great that the consciences of whole nations have been awakened, especially in the United States. National giving on a scale unprecedented in the history of people or nations, has poured forth from the shores of North America and still continues to. Billions of dollars has been injected into the veins of the world's economy to strengthen the diet, the health, the education, the public utilities, the agricultural and industrial production of the underprivileged and unfortunates of most free nations. Even on the Spiritual realm, Missionary enterprise has gone forward as never before, although it represents only a minute fraction of social and government giving. To-day more than 30,000 Protestant Missionaries are at work in most of the distant corners of the earth apart from those under the heavy hand of Communistic governments.

Yet in all this philanthropic and Christian zeal there exists a strange situation – one which does not add up to reason. It is simply that the blessing of Chiropractic has never been included, except for a small beginning in the ancient kingdom of Haile Selassie. Some sixty years ago God revealed to D.D. Palmer the hitherto unknown fact that pressure, twisting or stretching a nerve interfered with the normal flow of nerve energy, resulting in diminished function of the part of the body supplied by that particular nerve. He understood for the first time that nerve trunks as they emitted from the spinal column were especially subject to tensions, stretching and pressure as was even the spinal cord itself. He saw sick people, incurable by other healing means, suddenly respond and get well. The truth dawned that if he could release the nerve fibres and trunks directly related to the abnormal pathology that disease disappeared. Thus the deaf heard and the lame walked as diseased tissue returned to normal through the working of the innate healing powers within the body.

With this mental awakening there came a vision, which when put to work, became the passion of his life. Picked up by his son, B.J. Palmer and later by many others, especially those who had been healed from so called incurable diseases, there developed a hard core of health pioneers, whose names are gradually being carved on the annals of Science. Their vision saw suffering humanity relieved of much of their illness – there had come to being a new and better way, in agreement with the natural laws of body function which would lead to health never before understood or realized. Thus was the Chiropractic profession born. At first it grew slowly but later by leaps and bounds, in spite of a road made difficult by those who through prejudice, ignorance or selfish motives tried to block the progress of something which according to God's Divine plan was to be a blessing to countless multitudes of this generation and to those yet to come.

In the enthusiasm of early progress in this Science and Art of things natural a strange situation has developed. The people of North

America, of Europe and of people elsewhere of European descent heard of and received the blessings of Chiropractic. Crude methods of practice developed into specific and scientific professional routine as God gave added enlightenment and wisdom through the minds who followed in the wake of the early pioneer, but it did not carry to the underdeveloped or under privileged peoples of the world. The vision and the passion of B.J. Palmer died out at the perimeter of western culture and thus none of the great social or missionary programs carried the blessings of health that they should have. Organized opposition on the Medical side, often edged on by selfish, financially minded drug industries, and aided by prejudice and ignorance on the part of educated man formed a barrier which though formidable should have been overridden by the passion and vision of those who knew better. "Where there is no vision the people perish," and so almost did Chiropractic International perish.

In the year 1943, in a miraculous manner, the first two Chiropractic Missionaries left for foreign fields. Several hundred Chiropractors and Chiropractic laymen at home caught the vision and have been richly blessed in helping to make this project enterprise a success. In continuing miraculous ways the work of these pioneers has come to the attention of such global enterprises as the World Health Organization headquartered at Geneva. Even Ambassadors and Kings of the outer areas have experienced the blessing of "healing, dedicated hands." Yet it is just a beginning toward giving all nations the blessing of health which God intended that they should have.

Truly it is a STORY TO TELL TO THE NATIONS. What need? What responsibility? What privilege? To this end is this page dedicated. May it help carry Chiropractic to the people of the world. It is our responsibility and our privilege to share with others less fortunate than ourselves the blessing so showered upon us.

-Colin A. Greenshields DC of St. Catharines, Ontario authors "1957 Lyceum Highlights" (pp. 20-2); PSC program included BJ, Himes, Marcus Bach, Ph.D., Ralph Evans, Vinton Logan, Crowder, Remier, Thompson, Claire O'Dell DC, Robert N. Thompson DC (who receives "Chiropractor of the Year award from the ICA for his work as a missionary in Ethiopia. He is the first Chiropractic missionary and is now in sole charge of a leper colony"), Hugh Chance, Marsh Morrison, J. Clay Thompson DC

1957 (Nov): *ICA International Review* [12(5)] includes:
-cover photograph of Ethiopian students:



-“Ethiopians enroll at Palmer School” (p. 24):

Davenport, Iowa (ACP) – Two Ethiopians are among the 160 students enrolled in the October freshman class at the Palmer School of Chiropractic.

The Ethiopians are the first of their race to attend a chiropractic college but they are not strangers to the philosophy, science and art of chiropractic, because they are protégés of Dr. Robert N. Thompson, D.C., superintendent for the Southern Leper Colony in Ethiopia.

Dr. Thompson last month was named “Chiropractor of the Year” at the ICA convention in Davenport. The two Ethiopians will return to their native land on graduation to help operate the leprosarium, under the sponsorship of the Ethiopian government and American missionary societies.

1958 (Aug): **ICA International Review of Chiropractic** [13(2)] includes:

–“U.S. leper magazine praises Dr. Thompson’s Ethiopia work” (p. 14):

Carville, La. (ACP) – Dr. Robert N. Thompson’s Chiropractic work with lepers in Ethiopia was featured in the May-June issue of the Star, a magazine published by leper patients at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Carville. The article said:

“In four years, since taking charge of the hospital in November of 1953, Dr. Thompson says 118 patients have been discharged symptom-free. There are now somewhat more than 600 patients in the hospital’s in-patient section and 3,000 regular out-patients. The average stay in the hospital is just under three years and the first large dismissal ceremony at the hospital was held Jan. 4, 1958, at which time 61 patients were discharged.

“The medical world will have a difficult time in finding fault with Dr. Thompson’s requirements for a ‘symptom-free’ patient since they are the same as what is said to be the criterion for discharge from Carville: 12 consecutive, monthly, negative microscopic tests.”

1959 (Jan): **ICA International Review** [13(7)] includes:

–“Sponsors of Ethiopian project organizing ‘Operation Bolivia’” (pp. 26, 31); photo and discussion of J. Bridgens Johnson, D.C. and work of Glenn Hultgren, D.C. of the Christian Chiropractors Association

1959 (Mar): **ICA International Review** [13(9)] includes:

–photograph (p. 14):



“Dr. Robert N. Thompson, superintendent of an Ethiopian leper colony and ICA “Chiropractor of the year” in 1957, has been touring the U.S. and Canada on a lecture tour since his return to this country. Above, he is talking to student and faculty members at the Columbia Institute of Chiropractic, New York. Dr. Thompson’s latest appearance was as banquet speaker at the ICA’s All-Technique Symposium in Hollywood, Calif., Feb. 22.”

1959 (July): **ICA International Review** [14(1)] includes:

–“Tabloid newspaper started by Canadian chiropractors” (pp. 22-3); includes full page photograph of cover/first page of June 1959 [1(4)] issue of **Chiropractic News**, featuring Robert N. Thompson, D.C. with Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie and headline featuring Thompson’s missionary work with lepers in Ethiopia



PHOTOGRAPH



From the cover of the August 1961 issue of the *Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association*

1961 (Sept/Oct): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [4(2)] includes:

-“P.S.C. now Palmer College” (pp. 30-1) describes Dave Palmer’s investiture as president of PCC; four photographs, involving Sutherland, Thaxton, Homewood, Robert N. Thompson

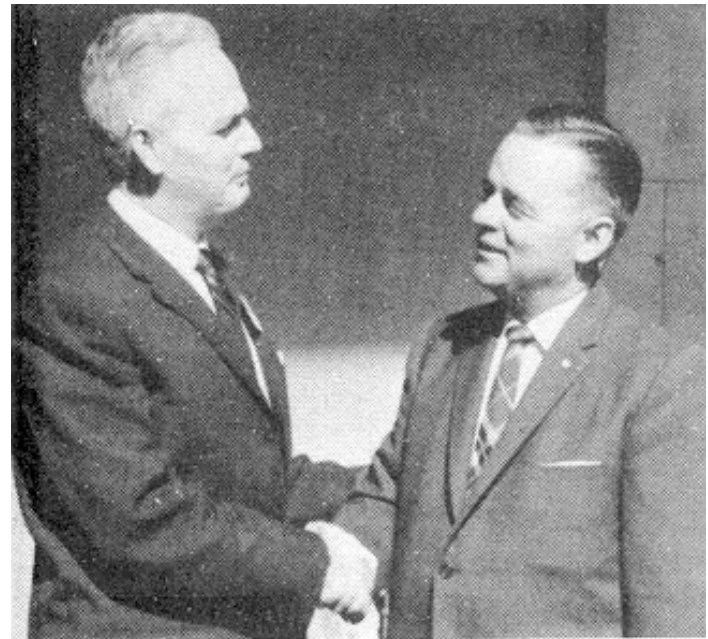
1962 (Apr/May): **Journal of the Canadian Chiropractic Association** [6(2)] includes:

-“Research in Hansen’s disease” (pp. 14-5, 17); discusses R.N. Thompson’s work at Sheshemane leprosarium; mentions Christian Chiropractors’ Association

1962 (June): **Journal of the NCA** [32(6)] includes:

-“Official Program” for NCA convention in Detroit (pp. 12-9) lists Robert N. Thompson, D.C. and Lyman C. Johnston, D.C. as featured presenters

PHOTOGRAPH



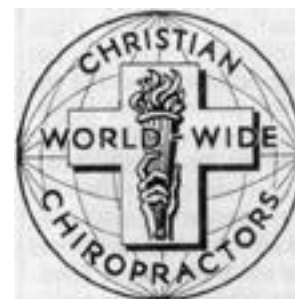
William Harris, D.C. & Robert N. Thompson, D.C., M.P.

1962 (Nov/Dec): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [5(3)] includes:

-Glenn Hultgren, D.C. of Fort Collins CO authors “Christian Chiropractors Assn.” (p. 5)
-Fred Woodress authors “Gift announced to the A.B. Hender Foundation” (pp. 32-3); notes that William Harris DC will donate his fortune to A.B. Hender Foundation, of which he and Robert N. Thompson DC, “minority leader of Canada and former chiropractic missionary to Ethiopia as well as President of Canadian memorial College”

1963 (May/June): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [5(6)] includes:

-Glen Hultgren, D.C., executive secretary of the Christian Chiropractors Association, authors “Christian Chiropractors Assn. in annual convention” (p. 5); includes photograph of CCA logo:



1963 (Sept/Oct): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [6(2)] includes:

-“Christian Chiros. sponsor student” (p. 4)

1964 (May/June): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [6(6)] includes:

-“Christian chiros schedule convention” (p. 47)

1964 (July/Aug): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [7(1)] includes:

-“New projects for Christian chiropractors” (p. 44):

One of the highlights of the Christian Chiropractors Association Convention held in Chicago during June of this year, was a new project which included the sponsoring of foreign students in chiropractic colleges. These would be students who desire to return to their home lands as chiropractic missionaries. Included in this would be the possibility of one American Indian.

The next annual convention will be held in Denver, Colorado the third week of June, 1965.

1964 (Nov/Dec): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [7(3)] includes:

-“Christian Chiros Assn. is tax exempt” (p. 4)

-half-page ad for Christian Chiropractors Association (p. 25)

1965 (Nov/Dec): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [8(3)] includes:

-Glenn M. Hultgren, D.C. of Fort Collins CO authors “My oldest patiet is one hundred and two” (p. 58); includes photo of patient George Roberts

1968 (Jan/Feb): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [10(4)] includes:

-“World tour to study chiropractic missions” (p. 53); includes **photos** of Drs. Hultgren & Stillwagon and:

Three chiropractors from different areas of the United States are making a world tour to study the needs and opportunities for chiropractic in foreign lands, especially in some underdeveloped nations. Dr. Glenn Stillwagon of Monongahela, Pennsylvania and Dr. Glenn Hultgren, Ft. Collins, Colorado, had January 14th as their departure date for this effort. They will be joined in February by Dr. Harry Kalseek of Castro Valley, California.

These men are representing the World-Wide Christian Chiropractors Association, an organization of Christian doctors assisting chiropractors who have gone into mission work. The purpose of this trip is to make a comprehensive study of the work being done in the mission field by chiropractors, and to see what possibilities there are for getting more chiropractors on the mission field.

The Christian Chiropractors Association recently formed its own Mission Board, and qualified doctors meeting its standards re anxious to get established in foreign lands. There is much that needs to be done in preparation for enlarging mission opportunities. The conclusions drawn from the reports made at the completion of this trip are expected to be of great value to those interested in serving the needs of mankind through missions and chiropractic. Such a study has never been made; there is much to be learned from this venture.

It is expected that the trip will take two months, with studies made of the work being done in such places as Mexico, Panama, Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Senegal Africa, Ghana, Ethiopia, Greece, Israel, Cyprus, Lebanon, Arabian Gulf, India, Vietnam, China, Philippines, Taiwan, Japan and Hawaii.

1973 (Nov): **ACA Journal of Chiropractic** [10(11)] includes:

-photograph & caption (p. 60):



L-R: Dr. Glen M. Hultgren, president of the CCA; Miss Janet Temple, actress and model; Dr. William D. Harper, president of TCC, and Dr. Harry E. Swanson, ACA District Six governor.

1976 (July/Aug): **Digest of Chiropractic Economics** [19(1)] includes:

-“World-wide Christian Chiro. Assoc. seeks new members” (pp. 4, 6)

1998 (Jan 1): **Dynamic Chiropractic** [16(1)] includes:

-Glen Hultgren, D.C., Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Christian Chiropractors Association in Ft. Collins CO, authors “Moment of silence for the remarkable Robert Thompson, D.C., Ph.C.” (p. 24):

One of the original members of the Christian Chiropractors Association, Dr. **Robert N. Thompson** of Langley, British Columbia, passed away on Sunday, Nov. 16, 1997 after a lengthy illness.

Dr. Thompson was born May 17, 1914 on a farm in Innisfail, Alberta. From his humble beginnings as a rural school teacher, he dedicated himself to the service of God.

He graduated from the Palmer School of Chiropractic in 1939, and married one of his instructors, Dr. Hazel Kurth. He went into chiropractic practice in Alberta. When WWII broke out, Dr. Thompson joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and became a flight instructor, rising to the rank of colonel.

In 1943, with the freeing of Ethiopia from the fascist occupation, the allied high command appointed Dr. Thompson to head a delegation to Ethiopia to help rebuild that war torn country. At the same time, the Thompsons had applied to the Sudan interior mission to go to Ethiopia as missionaries. Drs. Bob and Hazel Thompson and their two young daughters arrived in Ethiopia, and Dr. Thompson began his service to Emperor Haille Selassie.

Dr. Thompson commanded the Imperial Ethiopian Air Force, and trained its first pilots. After the war, he continued on with the government as deputy minister of education, helping to establish the Ethiopian educational system. He also served as an advisor in foreign affairs to Haille Selassie, with special assignments to India, the Sudan, Nigeria, Canada, and the U.S. He was instrumental in helping establish the Organization of African States. As a confidant to the emperor, he was awarded the star of Ethiopia, and the rank of grand officer.

In 1948, he went into full-time mission work with the Sudan Interior Mission, and in 1951, was assigned as director of the Southern Leprosarium in Sheshemane, Ethiopia.

In 1953, Dr. Thompson returned to the U.S. He was asked to speak at the Palmer homecoming (known as the lyceum at the time). He challenged the profession to provide him with some chiropractic

equipment to do basic research on the effects of chiropractic on leprosy. The Christian students at Palmer took up the challenge and raised enough money to buy two truck loads of equipment to send to Ethiopia. This effort was the start of what became known as the Christian Chiropractors Association (CCA).

Two of Dr. Thompson's Ethiopian assistants, Mulatu Baffa, and Beyenne Mulatu, came to the U.S. under the sponsorship of the CCA to study chiropractic, and returned to Ethiopia in 1960 as Africa's first chiropractors.

Because of the ill health of a number of the Thompson children, five of whom were born in Ethiopia, the Thompsons returned to Canada in 1958. Dr. Thompson gravitated toward politics, and in the early '60s was a member of the Canadian Parliament, where he was a third-party leader that controlled the balance of power in that house.

In the late '60s, Dr. Thompson was elected president of the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College.

In 1972, the Thompson family moved to Fort Langely, British Columbia, and Dr. Bob began teaching at Trinity Western University. He was frequently called upon by his own government and by the United Nations to serve as mediator in foreign wars, counselor to foreign governments, and delegation leader in such countries as Nigeria, Zaire, China, and Vietnam. In those years, he made dozens of trips overseas to help bring peace and harmony to many troubled peoples.

His wife of 53 years, Dr. Hazel Thompson, died in 1992. He later married a former missionary co-worker widow, Evelyn May Brandt, who survives him, along with seven of his eight children.

Dr. Thompson will be missed by thousands of friends in his home country of Canada, in the U.S., in Ethiopia, and around the world.

His funeral was held Sat. Nov. 22 at Trinity University, with Dr. Franklin Graham presiding.

A memorial fund has been established through the CCA for Dr. Thompson to be used toward paying the mortgage for the new CCA building.

2000 (June 5): letter from William M. Harris DC (in my Harris file):

Dear Dr. Keating:

In regard to your letter of May 30, Robert Thompson and I were in class at Palmer College. His wife-to-be, Hazel Kurth, and my wife-to-be, Joan Allen, were very close friends in the X-Ray department, where they worked. We had several double dates.

When Robert finished college he received a commission as special aide in the work with Emperor Haille Selassie. Dr. Thompson and his wife went to Ethiopia and while there, at the encouragement of the Emperor, he opened a large clinic to benefit lepers. He was instrumental in encouraging a minimum of 3-5 students from Ethiopia to enter Palmer College and to graduate and go back to practice. The success that was achieved with leprosy was very encouraging and the students continued his clinic there. Dr. Thompson was a missionary and later the Director of Education for Ethiopia. I would estimate that they lived there for approximately 20 years.

Upon his return to North America, Dr. Thompson was elected to the minority leadership on the Canadian parliament. Following this he became president of Canadian Memorial College. During this period he visited with me at my home in Albany, Georgia, and showed me where he had lost a thumb from leprosy. I asked him if he would serve as a Board member of the A.B. Hender Foundation, a fore-runner of the present day Foundation for the Advancement of Chiropractic Education. He accepted, but was never formally

inducted. I arranged, too, to have him address a meeting of the Georgia Chiropractic Association.

As I recall, Dr. and Mrs. Thompson had six children. I do not know the paths the children have taken, and I believe Hazel has since passed away.

Dr. Thompson was active in all political affairs at Palmer College and he had an intense desire for public service, which he fulfilled with tremendous success. He desired to make the world a better place because he had a space on it.

I would be honored to critique the manuscript concerning NCMIC.

Sincerely,...

2000 (June 20): letter from William M. Harris DC (in my Harris file):

Dear Dr. Keating:

Thank you for sending the picture of Bob Thompson. In addition to my other information, Bob was a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force, but to the best of my memory, he never served overseas.

Dr. A.B. Hender was the first medical doctor in Davenport to become a chiropractor. He came on the staff of Palmer College. He had two sons, also chiropractors, and two grandchildren. One of his sons, Dr. Herb Hender, was the Dean of Palmer College and also the director of the Clearview Sanatorium, a place for many ill patients. It functioned for approximately 50 years in Davenport.

Dr. A.B. Hender and I became firm friends, and at his passing I resolved that I would have a non-profit foundation and I received approval from his family to use his name. The A.B. Hender Foundation succeeded for two or three years and the money was distributed to needy students through H.C. Hender.

It became apparent that the first foundation had weaknesses in its charter. No student ever repaid single loan, so in time the concept was changed to the Foundation for the Advancement of Chiropractic Education, with broader guidelines.

Thank you for what you do to keep the history of chiropractic straight for the profession. I appreciate your talent.

Sincerely,...

2001 (May 5): letter from Glenn M. Hultgren DC at 126 West Harvard Avenue, Ft. Collins CO 80525:

Dear Dr. Keating,

Thank you for the material you sent to me a couple weeks ago re: a piece of history that you are doing on Dr. Robert N. Thompson's life and his position in the history of Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College.

I was gone for a week and since coming home I have been trying to locate someone who could give you some more exact information than I can. I am trying to make contact with two of his daughters. The oldest, Grace Brunner, lives in Red Deer Alberta and his second, Alice Miller lives in Ottawa. I should have their addresses and/or telephone numbers in a few days. As you know, four of his five boys had fractured X chromosome syndrome, which is a genetic disease carried by the mother and passed to her sons and causing mental retardation. Bob did not know what kind of a problem his boys had until shortly before he died when Alice also had a boy with the same problem and had genetic testing done to find out what it was. One of his sons has died, three with the problem are living in Fort Langley, B.C. and with some assistance are taking care of themselves. The other son, Paul, has been estranged from his parents and lives in Texas. He is normal and has a very good position with a computer technology company.

I read your paper and was very pleased with it. I have just a couple of items which I felt I should interject. On page three you said Bob spoke at Palmer Lyceum in 1957 which may have been true as that was the year I nominated him for I.C.A. Chiropractor of the Year and he was immensely pleased with that award. With all of the medals and awards he received in his lifetime, that surely was one of the most inconspicuous, but it greatly pleased him. It was in 1953 that he came to Lyceum while I was a student, and presented the challenge of sending chiropractic, X-Ray and laboratory equipment to Ethiopia, as he had just been appointed head of the Sudan Interior Mission Sheshemane Leprosarium and he wanted to see what he could do with chiropractic in the treatment of leprosy. It was as a result of that speech that he and Dr. Mattie Carswell Stephens of Thomaston, Georgia, who as a classmate of Dr. Hazel Thompson, and I met and decided to challenge the Christians in the profession to spearhead this project. Funds were raised from all over the country and channeled through the I.C.A. and two truck loads of equipment were sent to Sheshemane. It was this project that was the catalyst for the formation of the Christian Chiropractors Association in August 1953.

Hazel also had a great part in Bob's Ethiopian work – I have just returned from Ethiopia after a brief visit there and was reminded of this story – Hazel carried three flats, nine dozen, fertile Rhode Island Red chicken eggs on her lap on the airplane when they returned in 1953 and started a program of upgrading the chicken population in Ethiopia and on my trip I now saw Rhode Island Red chickens all over Ethiopia. As I started to say Bob's work in Sheshemane was so successful – training Ethiopian nurses and midwives, caring for thousands of leper patients, medically, surgically, physically by providing food and housing for them as well as spiritually – establishing their own church, where I spoke to 300 lepers in 1968 and I saw that church still in operation when I was there a few weeks ago. Two of the young men who Bob trained as nurses and hospital attendants were later brought to the U.S. by the Christian Chiropractors Association and sponsored through Palmer School, returning to Ethiopia in 1960 as Africa's first native Doctors of Chiropractic. Both have now retired but both made a tremendous mark on their country as well as suffered heavy, severe persecution during the Communist days.

Another thing Bob did was to develop a technique (surgically) of transplanting a tendon from the plantar surface of the foot to the dorsal surface on leper patients. In many patients they were crippled because the plantar ~~ligament~~ ??? was paralyzed and with Bob's procedure, they were able to walk again. He began to teach this technique to other surgeons throughout Africa and that is when Bob got in trouble. Through pressure from the Head office of the S.I.M. in New York, which was under pressure from the A.M.A., Bob was asked to leave Africa and take a position with the S.I.M. in Australia. Bob told them that God had not called him to Australia and so he resigned from the mission and returned to Canada in 1958.

At that time I coordinated an 18 month speaking tour for him all over Canada and the U.S. He was a tremendous speaker and spoke as many as five times a day to service clubs, political gatherings, churches and chiropractic groups. I have copies of several of these messages and everywhere he went he was a tremendous hit. It was with this as a base that he went into Canadian politics and was elected to Parliament. During that time he became involved with C.M.C.C. and after his time in Parliament he became its president.

Two errors which I had in my previous correspondence which I wish to correct. **Bob was born in Duluth, Minnesota and not Alberta.** His parents emigrated to Canada shortly after his birth and homesteaded in Alberta, where he grew up and where he always called

home. In at least one place **I said he was born in 1913 and should be 1914.** I am going to enclose copies of a eulogy and the program which I got at his funeral. This may give more of a glimpse into the life of the man, outside of his chiropractic career. He was a man of so many "hats" that you cannot put him into any one box.

In spite of all the success which Bob had in politics, education, chiropractic, missions and diplomacy, Bob died a virtual pauper. He gave away everything he ever received. He sponsored several Ethiopian students in College in the U.S. and Canada, he was always assisting someone in a project or program. He lived very frugally and never accepted anything for himself. He made arrangements for his mentally retarded sons to be cared for after his passing but did not have any money to leave them and rather taught them how to do menial tasks to take care of their own needs. He shook the hands of world leaders small and great, received acclaim from leaders in many countries, brought peace to several warring nations, mediated the Biafran War in Nigeria in 1969 and a civil war in Congo in 1970, paved the way for President Nixon to visit China in 1971 and worked for the end of the Viet Nam war in 1973. Most of this was never published or brought to light because Bob did not want that done. He received no pay for these efforts but acted on behalf of his Government and that of the U.N.

There is much more I could say, but I do not know if it would be of interest to your book on C.M.C.C. Thanks again for your letter and the good work you are doing.

Sincerely,...

2001 (May 29): telephone call from Larry Allen DC:

- Dr. Allen graduated PSC in 1939; Robert Thompson was classmate, knew his wife Hazel as well
- Allen also recalls Dave & Agnes Palmer as classmates, also John B. Wolfe DC
- Allen was also friend of Lyman Johnston, developed a derivative of Johnston's posturometer, Allen's "Structural Stress Analyzer"
- was active in pre-employment screening programs thru Palmer's postgrad division

2001 (May 30): e-mail from Herb Vear DC:

Joe:

The following will help explain my tardiness in not getting to work on CMCC History faster. Before that, today I had a call from Mrs. Grace Brunner, daughter of Robert Thompson, who we met in Yuma. I had sent her the draft you gave me about her father, and she was so thrilled to have it. I told her that at some time in the future I would like to do a biography with you for publication. She will cooperate in any way possible. In the meantime she is sending me additional photos of her father professionally scanned which I will share with you. Please send me another copy of that paper or if you wish via e-mail. I spent the best part of the past two days sorting my CMCC files, which somehow became very confusing.

Herb

2001 (June 9): interview with Glenn Hultgren DC, executive director of Christian Chiropractors Association (CCA), in Fort Collins CO:

- Dr. Hultgren born 12/27/32, graduated from PSC in 1955, other students included Donald Kern, Jerry McAndrews, Sid Williams, John Miller, Glenn Stillwagon, Vernon Pierce
- Robert N. Thompson Dc addressed 1953 PSC lyceum at BJ's invitation

- Mattie Carswell Stevens DC was classmate of Hazel Thompson DC
- Dr. Stevens challenged students at 1953 lyceum to support Ethiopian mission; students raised \$10K
- Thompson, Stevens & Hultgren drew up bylaws for CCA; \$10 annual dues for DCs, \$2 dues for students
- 1956: Glenn practiced in ND, raised dollars for CCA; met G.G. Wood DC
- 1957: two Ethiopian students enrolled at PSC
- Henry Esch DC was early member of CCA; Glenn knows Lelia Schlabach DC

2001 (June 21): letter from Bill Harris:

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your letter. It is good to know that you are now a homeowner.

Dr. Robert Thompson was a friend at Palmer College. We were there when he married Hazel Kurth. In fact, he and I used to double date (me with my future wife, also.)

After leaving school he joined the Canadian Air Force, then felt that he was called to Ethiopia as a missionary. He became the personal emissary of Emperor Haile Sellassie, and worked there, developing many treatments for leprosy. He encouraged many Ethiopians to study at Palmer.

Upon returning to the United States, he came to visit with me at my home in Albany, Georgia. Then he decided to run for political office in Canada, and won. He became president of the Canadian Chiropractic Memorial Hospital [sic]. He had an outstanding record of public service throughout his illustrious career.

Congratulations on your decision to become a free lance writer. May I encourage you to contact all of your friends letting them know, and telling them that you would welcome their ideas and support. Although I would like to assist you in your work, because of anew business venture, I will not have the time to critique your papers.

Do keep in touch. I wish you every success in your chosen career.

Sincerely,...

WMH/jsg

2001 (July 1): e-mail from Glenn M. Hultgren DC (gmhultgren@bigplanet.com):

Dear Joe,

I finally got Alice's address (Bob Thompson's daughter). It is:

Mrs. Clifford Miller

RR 1 PO,

Lombardy, Ontario K0G 1L0

Tele. (613) 283-6985 (613)283-6490 (Business)

E-Mail address: RidAntique@Falls.igs.net

I talked to Alice and told her you were trying to get in touch withher. She said she would be happy to talk to you and do whatever she could to help you in your project.

Alice is a graduate X-Ray Technician from C.M.C.C.

Glenn M. Hultgren

2001 (Aug 31): e-mail from Grace Brunner, R.N. Thompson's daughter (gbrunner@oanet.com):

Dear Sir:

Accept my apology in not answering your letter of June 2. Only yesterday I was connected to the internet so must be prompt in reply.

I wish I could share the information you asked for, unfortunately those particular items all went to Thompson Archives at Trinity Western University in Langley B.C. I could probably get copies of the documents but that would take time, perhaps Dr Glen who was a personal friend of Dad's might be able to help. It is very unfortunate that Dad requested that his documents be placed there. I sent a copy of one of Dad's books Liberation-The First to be Freed to Dr Vear, so perhaps he can share the info he has gathered. My step mother (I call Mother) lives in Abbotsford B.C. but I pretty sure she has very little to help, but pehaps if you wish to Email her address is EvThompson@telus.net. It has been a pleasure to have this little visit. I count it an honor to meet special people like yourself and Dr Vear.

Sincerely yours (Mrs.) Grace Brunner

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