



**Br Joseph Lindner, S.J.**  
**(1866-1945. In Zambia Jun-Oct 1911)**

**19 November 1945**

Joseph Lindner was the last survivor of the mission band led by Fr Richartz which founded the Chishawasha Mission in 1892 on land that had been given to the Society in December 1890. He was born at Danchwitz, Upper Silesia, on 17 July 1866. After an elementary education in his home town, he learnt the trade of blacksmith at Strehlen (1880-1885) and practiced it for three years at Bantzen. He began his noviceship in the Austrian Province at St Andrea in June 1888. On 2 April 1892 he sailed from Southampton for Cape Town. Thence he left for Taungs and Mafeking by rail, where he joined the party of Fathers and Dominican nuns who were destined for Fort Victoria, Salisbury and Chishawasha.

For three months he shared with the others the perils and hardships of that ox-wagon trek and arrived at Chishawasha on the feast of St Ignatius 1892. Henceforth the story of his life and that of Chishawasha were to be almost identical, for he lived through all those early struggles, privations, failures and successes. He had to face the dangers of death during the days of the Shona rebellion in mid-June 1896, and, side by side with his companions, he withstood the assaults the three days siege of Chishawasha and then he joined the remnants of the Europeans in Fort Salisbury.

After months of unsettled conditions, work was again taken up. The confidence and affection of the defeated people had to be won and there could have been no better ambassador than Br Lindner during the thirty-six years he worked at Chishawasha. During this time he made a brief foray over the Zambezi to work under Br Haupt in the building of the Church at Chikuni from June to October 1911. His job was to work on the walls and to collect the large stones for the foundations and to burn the bricks.

It was not until 1936 that he left for Triashill where again he endeared himself to all. Even in his old age the toils of pioneer work were not beyond his strength and in 1936 at the age of 70, he was chosen to build up a new independent mission at St Barbara's. It was here that he was stationed at the time of his death on 19 November 1945.