



Mission Haven Update – November 2025

REMEMBRANCES & RECIPES: *Recollections of a Mish Kid*

Below is an abridged version of a memory written for our 75th anniversary cookbook. This narrative will be accompanied by two recipes: one with U.S. roots and another from sub-Saharan Africa. **We want YOUR stories and recipes, too!** [Click here for instructions and sample](#). If you have served or benefitted from MH in some way, PLEASE submit your story and recipe before December 31st.

I have fond memories of Mission Haven as a child. In the early fall of 1950 (*before incorporation*), Alex and Peggy McCutchen and Jim and Charlene Halverstadt were the first missionary couples to occupy the new duplex. Everything was clean, sparkling, and new. Mother was thrilled because the kitchen was fully equipped, including a Mix-Master!



The McCutchen's & Halverstadt's host a meal for retired Belgian Congo missionaries Hershey & Minnie Longenecker. Spring 1951.

There were many children in the neighborhood, and we played together daily. My father was very happy to be back among friends he knew at the seminary, and my mother reconnected with friends from her years at Emory and Agnes Scott.

We gathered at Mission Haven regularly for evening dinners and social visits. The atmosphere was open and free, and we children were around to hear most of the discussions and chatter among the adults.

The trustees provided a piano for the Halverstadts which enabled their son Hugh to take lessons. Thanks to diligent practicing, Hugh became a marvelous piano player. In adulthood, he chose to devote his life to the ministry, writing, and teaching at McCormick Theological Seminary.

I, on the other hand, was a much younger and boisterous kid. In our section of the duplex, the women of the church had placed a new red vinyl sleeper sofa in the living room. One afternoon, with a screwdriver in my back pocket, I damaged the sofa. After I personally apologized to the lady who was then responsible for Mission Haven, my parents hired a professional to repair the damage!

As our stay ended, both families began to pack supplies - in 55-gallon drums - for all that would be needed for the 9-month stay in Belgium (to learn French) and for the next 4 years in Belgian Congo. These drums were everywhere: both the outside yard and inside the house.

During that packing season, all the women associated with Mission Haven gave freely of their time to help. The friendships made during that year lasted a lifetime through correspondence, Christmas cards and subsequent visits.

With fondness and gratitude,
Thom McCutchen



Happy Thanksgiving



Housing ~ Hospitality ~ Clothing ~ Prayer