

Missão do Bunjei
Galangue, Jan 15, 1951

Dearest Mother,

This will be my first letter to you this year. As a matter of fact it will be my first letter to anyone this year. I've been down more of the time than I have been up this year so far because of a liver upset. The doctor says that probably the malarial which I had last October caused some congestion of the liver and right after Christmas we had to come back to Dondi for treatment. I thought at first that I had appendicitis but it was only the old liver objecting to being forced to furnish digestive juices when it was not able to. I'm beginning to feel better but have to eat very lightly and carefully, or else suffer with what is like somebody hitting me just under my wish bone. It feels like a fist blow, pound, pound, pound.

We are now in Dondi, 100 miles away from home, because of Susan. We came up yesterday because Susan was having some complication from a bout of fever. She had a mouth full of canchre sores and we were afraid that it might turn into something worse. Realizing that our treatment had not been too successful we came to the hospital here at the center of our work, hoping that we might find penicillin and be able to check the progress of the infection. We have succeeded apparently. She is much better today.

Tommy has had swollen glands, too, but seems to be much better today.

When we arrived here, we found that Kenneth had amebic dysentery, and that he is under treatment with Emetine and Carbozene. He's better, too, but has to be careful with diet also.

Well, when you have finished reading the above you will think that we are all the time down with something or other. It has been so since October. We hope that it will be better with us from now on for a while.

Betty of course is very tired, but seems to be holding her own with fevers and the like.

We had a pleasant Christmas, spent in Dondi, too. We spent it with the doctor and his family. Our colleague, Sam Coles and his wife were still here at Dondi then, also our close friends from the coast, who had just greeted a new son a few days before Christmas. It was a happy occasion for old folks and children alike, giving one a chance to talk and show off all the toys. Presents from Strong had long since reached Galangue of course and muchly appreciated. What lovely handkerchieves you sent me. And I think that there isn't a present any more appreciated by the children than Crayola, unless of course it's a lolly pop. But lolly pops disappear pretty fast. Susan reads in her book a lot. It's a lovely book, cover, pages and all. But probably the most useful items are the pieces of elastic. You do up a lot in small parcels, Mother and Olive. We always hurry home to open the packages which come from Strong and see what good thing has come this time.

There is something you could send us, though, that you have not sent as yet, and it's something which we could use to good advantage out here where customs call for such things. Toothpicks. If you want, you can do up some packages and send them to the American Board in Boston to come out with other freight which is coming out for us in March. Send to Harvey L. Meekins, A.B.C.F.M., 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass. to be put with goods going to Africa with Miss Harriet Summerville. Otherwise, send just one or two boxes out by registered first class mail. We'll send you the money to pay for both picks and postage. If you send them to Boston, have a small box of about fifty boxes made up and sent on to Boston.

We are tearing around, when we are not sick, trying to put a new school program

into effect. It would be difficult to explain just what it is, but I have had to make two long trips so far because of it, each trip costing \$ 32.00 for travel alone. Then we have had to pay for official documents and for food. And we still have one or two trips to make probably. I should be on my way today, but our car is broken down. It also got sick, valve trouble. The things stick inside the motor and when we arrived yesterday we were running on three cylinders only, just half of the number which should have been working. Yesterday's trip to Dondi was an emergency of course. We didn't know whether we should find it necessary to leave Susan or not, but thought that there was nothing we could do but come, with the idea that we, or only I, would return to the mission and then this morning I was to head for Vila la Ponte, Vila of the Bridge, if whether we had to leave Susan here or not I was supposed to go to see the administrator of our district on the matter of school program and certain documents for our teachers. However, we are still in Dondi, all of us, and the car in the garage, where the mechanics are taking off the head. One never knows in this country when car trouble will overtake him, even with the maximum of care.

It's time now to turn to other things. The weather just now is daily rain. We are in the middle of the wet season. Some sections have showers two or three times a day and every day without fail. At Bunjei we had several days last week without rain, or without more than a sprinkle. But in the city of Nova Lisboa rain has continued to fall daily for several weeks I've been told. But we have had enough downpours to destroy our river bottom corn and beans. We have upland fields under cultivation, but we need corn and more corn because of the size of our school, which consumes about 400 pounds of corn a day and 15 to twenty pounds of beans, not to mention cabbage. The school year has been changed under the new program, too, and we must run now until September instead of running to the end of March, as last year, and then beginning again in September. Vacation this year from September to December. We shall try to cultivate everything, however, and hope that rain and sun combine in our favor and not against us.

Everything here turns on corn and beans, which are staple food for the Africans. Near the railroad and in some other sections some are beginning to grow other kinds of food stuffs, but the base of it all is corn, next in line beans, and then comes rice followed by wheat, as near as I can gather. Whenever I go to a village I get corn meal mush, with chicken, or perhaps cabbage, Portuguese cabbage, the leaves of which are always green and used for making soups or in a relish dish, to make the mush more tasty of course. By itself it can be sort of tasteless, altho I have eaten it sometimes by itself when I've found the flavor very good, but it is only rarely so. Often the people do not have salt, too, which would help out the flavor of the corn somewhat. But the African can not do without his corn. It is like bread or potatoes in our diet.

Now Betty wants to add a short word, so I'll stop. Love and hugs to you and Olive. We remember you in our prayers.

Grace's

next morning

Hi Mom & Olive

Don't you worry about us, now. Things always sound so much worse when you read about them than they are in reality.

This morning, Lucie is back to her own sunny self and Tommy his own independent self. Henry is almost back to a normal diet and Max is raring to go! I got almost a whole night's sleep. If the truck will just get repaired well be on our way to Vila la Ponte.

I went tonight to buy food. The car was a hell of a packer. It was broken & I was in a hurry. The children were with you. Betty & Olive & Grace & I went to the market. The car was a hell of a packer. It was broken & I was in a hurry. The children were with you. Betty & Olive & Grace & I went to the market.

Mpianin de Sainje
St. de Agosto, 1957

Dearest Folks - all & you -

I am so sorry that you haven't got the last two letters I wrote you. The last one contained a letter to the Guild. It was pretty heavy. Maybe the postage ~~didn't~~ wasn't enough and so the letter was sent air mail. I do hope you have gotten it even now. The one before that must have gone down in a plane crash. I wouldn't swear that I have written more than two letters since April but I am dead certain of those two. The cards and pictures have arrived and so have the dresses. I wrote about the dresses in one of my letters. They are adorable. I am saving them for the last two weeks in October and the first two in November. We are going to Chissamba to greet either a baby brother or a baby sister. Tommy & Kenny will be in school at Dondi. Now Mum that's not the reason that I haven't written more than the two letters since April. I would never guess that I was going to have a baby most of the time. We are so busy. There's no time to think about ourselves. The Coles left in May and with the whole supervision of all the work of the mission on us we just run around in circles. One night we worked all night on books. That is May did. I lay down to snooze about 3 o'clock and May didn't waken me until 5. Then we got into the car and went to Dondi to carry over report and get some lessons on the American system of book keeping. Any establishment that handled as many dollars as the hospital ^{in America} would need a full time book keeper. Here keeping the books is only one of hundred jobs. Since I took over the hospital we have had three premature babies born. Two of them died. Each of the two who died weighed less than 3 pounds and were very very weak. The third weighed better than four pounds. I kept it at the house a day

and a night in a cardboard box well lined with newspapers - warm blankets and a hot water bottle. The other side of the box was next to the fireplace. The second night of its life I fed it a weakened solution of powdered milk, sugar every two hours and gave it water every other hour. The next day one of the young nurses at the hospital learned how to take care of it and she stayed at the hospital for two weeks. When the father took her home and is taking very good care of her. She had gained 25 lbs. than five pounds - when she left the hospital. The first month at home she lost but now is gaining finely. The mother died of hemorrhage the night the baby was born.

The hospital has been full of patients until a few weeks ago. In a little while they will start in again. There are two factors which govern sickness among the Africans. 1. Change in temperature. The warm weather begins now. The contrast between days and nights is sharp. and those who do not have warm blankets to protect them at night are very likely to become victims of Pneumonia. Fortunately we have good African nurses at the hospital and nearly all the patients who come to the hospital get well. 2. plowing time and harvest time find few patients at the hospital. People don't have time to be sick.

Map is holding a school for Calaguato just now in one of the villages. Saturday I will go as far as the Cuernavaca River

to meet him. He is about 35 kilometers on the other side. He went that distance on a bicycle. There is no bridge across the Cumme ^(at that point), one of the largest rivers of Angola. People cross it in a ~~can~~ dory, which two Africans propel by pulling hand over hand on a wire string across the river. The children think they've had an ocean voyage when they have gone in it.

Susan is growing like a pig. She is fat, happy, strongwilled but more cooperative at her age than the boys were. Tommy is all agog about going to school. Goodness says they go in two more weeks and I don't have their clothes all ready. Thanks just heaps for the pants too. They are fine for Kenny. My Ralph is a rugged lad for size isn't he? I hope he doesn't have any more bronchitis spells. Tommy can sympathize ~~now~~ he had one bad bout and knows it's no fun. He is fine now. So is Kenny. Kenny had a sick spell for a couple of days but is O.K. now. Susan had the measles last February ~~two weeks ago~~. A nurse from Dondi was here. We gave her genuine for malaria and penicillin for an infection. But still her fever didn't come down. We were really worried. And were just about to take her to Dondi to the doctor when she grew pink all over with a real good measles rash. Now the doctor treated the nurse when she returned to Dondi and said she had given penicillin for measles. Frankly, I wasn't sorry about the penicillin. I think it may have prevented

any complications from coming after the measles.
We are trying to get boat passage for the first of June 1952. At the rate the months are flying these days I'm wondering if that is time enough to get packed. But never fear we'll make the boat packed or carrying our stuff on our heads African style. We'll probably arrive in New York the last of July.

Aug. 22

I guess I'll get this off for sure today.
The boy is going to the post to carry the mail.
The mail boy is waiting so here are big
kisses and love

God bless you all

Betty Talbot

may 1937

Nov. 19, 1937

Dear Mum, Olive Francis, Rudy, Ralph

Well Ralph you have another cousins. Now, with Bertha when you all get together you should be enough to play most any old game you want to. Maybe you'll have to call in some of the Daddys ~~see~~ if you want to play baseball and a Mummy for referee. Or better still gramma

Patricia is a darling - plump - pretty - and good. She only wakes to be fed five times in twenty four hours and all of her own accord. She sure made history in Chassamba. She was due to arrive the 14th of Nov. we were eating at the house of the single ladies and the nurse who was to have the case said: "I thought you and I had a date today, Betty." I promptly responded: "3 O'clock this afternoon". Imagine her surprise no more than mine when I sent Max after her at quarter of three that afternoon. They are all still talking about it.

Fenny writes that he is so excited he doesn't know what to do. Tommy is happy because we wrote him that we think she looks like him. Susan is thrilled because now she has a baby just like Genevieve. She was quite envious of Genevieve's baby brother. Max is happy because the baby sleeps all night and Mummy is most humbly, gratefully happy to have four happy, normal, and beautiful children. My daily petition is for Christian wisdom to return God's goodness with the right kind of training of these our children.

Olive, I'm sorry ~~they aren't~~ to disappoint you on the twins. You just gotta get married and produce them for the rest of us. Mum don't worry about the work neither Max and I are out of prodire on housework - and the boys are learning. Even Susan can clear off the table with supervision. Love Betty

Don't think you and kids worry

for the
arriving
and to-day
has things
made

Patricias
quite a bit
Did you get
? same
Map

Dear Mum, I all, all the gifts were simply grand.
Your package arrived last night.
What fun! yes, you'd have loved to see
Susan when she saw the p.p.s.
We are sending a package each to Tom
& Ken from Kraggine & all of you. Susan is
getting up front of me back at the hospital
office. She looks adorable in the pink and
blue dress. In fact she looks adorable in
all of them. Don't fear injury that I'm
not hearing about clothes to make over
for the girls. Believe me, we'll all be
coming home on a skeleton wardrobe
and sending forward to that trunk that
you gave for the Welch's. Patricia has
several tries to sit alone already.
She is adorable, goodnatured, and has the
best hair. Susan loves her to pieces. She never
shown the least sign of jealousy.
Her hair (the tiny bit of it that she has) is
a bit darker than the rest of the children's.
I got my letter to you yesterday at the
same time that I wrote to the ladies?
I preached in church this morning.
He is getting very proficient in
this language. I was so thrilled today
I called the women together and asked
them if they would pay for the food
for the deacons during the first week
of their school in April. I had expected
that they would agree and take it out of
their treasury. But they did better. Everyone
of them promised to bring some corn or
beans so that they needn't bring any beans.
We hope to leave about June 7 for Portugal. Then
get a boat from there home. Love both of you.

near folks,
Just a line to let you know we
are o.k. Map is going to Nova Scotia
in a half hour, so heaven & time
to write a lot. It is now 4:15 A.M.
School is closed for two weeks
as I'm going (Time passes by -----)

Missão da Chissamba, 5 November 1951.

Dearest Mother and Olive, I didn't have time to put a note in the letter of the other day, so I'll take advantage of this one begun a while ago. Unfortunately, we have at times struck snags in our letter writing lately. Work at the station just pressed us so that we would get to our answering letters about midnight when we were so tired that we oftentimes never finished.

We are really getting a bit of a rest now, even Betty, though she is certainly burdened now. The baby is due in about ten days. Whether it will keep to schedule we can't say, but Betty grows more round every day now and the event cannot be far off. Since you already know the names chosen all that's lacking is to know whether it's boy or girl, or both, isn't it. I'll send you news immediately, once we know, and as soon as possible a picture.

Thanksgiving is close upon us isn't it? It looks as if we would celebrate here in Chissamba, although the Canadian holiday is past, Oct. 15. How much we'll celebrate is a question, but certainly we shall give thanks. And we shall probably begin dreaming of where we shall be next year for Thanksgiving. Our plans are not made yet for anything. We rest the first part of the furlough, which means that we see our folks the first part, too. But since we don't know yet just when we'll arrive, whether the end of July or about the middle of August, we can't guess how we shall be situated at Thanksgiving. In about another three months we'll begin to have some idea about tentative plans for furlough, rest, study, speaking engagements and all. Then we'll get together. And now the paper begins to run out and I've only space to say how much we're looking forward to getting home, seeing all the changes, showing you pictures of work out here, showing off our sons and daughters, we hope and your grandchildren and nephews and nieces. Love, hugs and kisses.

Dona; Bob; 1-1-52
June 23, 1952

Dona; Bob; 1-1-52

We have just gotten Olive's letter of June 4th, and we know that you must be wondering whether we are or are not on the way. I don't know whether we have written anything lately or not because of what has been happening here. This letter should reach you in time to give you an idea when to expect word from us from a little closer home.

We are now in Bela Vista because Betty came down with a severe attack of malaria. I thought that perhaps we could go home today, but the nurses say "no". So I'll use the time for writing letters and clearing up last minute things here.

We are all here except Patricia. We left her at the mission because the trip up from Galangue to Bela Vista is not an easy one. Our other missionary on the station, Lois King, is taking care of Tricia while we must be up here. We arrived here last Thursday, the 19th. Betty came down with fever while I was out in the villages for a final look at the work. She finally got to feeling so mean, with a very sore mouth, that we decided to come to Dondi hospital. She has improved a lot, but yesterday still had a temp, so we probably shan't get home until tomorrow at the earliest.

But we are sure that she will be all right to travel. Our plans are to leave Nova Lisboa by plane on July 11th. We fly first to Luanda. From there we go to Leopoldville, then to Lisbon and then Boston. We expect to arrive in Boston on July 18th. We had originally planned to come by boat, leaving Lobito on the 7th of this month. But to date we have not heard from the steamship company about passage, and we find that there were no places on the boat anyhow. Other missionaries who wanted to go on the same boat, the "Patria" finally flew. We shall be coming by Pan American Airways.

Looking forward to seeing you soon. Lot of love,
and God be with you, *Prickie*

Dondi, Bela Vista
June 23, 1952

Dearest Mother,

We have just gotten Olive's letter of June 4th, and we know that you must be wondering whether we are or are not on the way. I don't know whether we have written anything lately or not because of what has been happening here. This letter should reach you in time to give you an idea when to expect word from us from a little closer home.

We are now in Bela Vista because Betty came down with a severe attack of malaria. I thought that perhaps we could go home today, but the nurses say "no". So I'll use the time for writing letters and clearing up last minute things here.

We are all here except Patricia. We left her at the mission because the trip up from Galangue to Bela Vista is not an easy one. Our other missionary on the station, Lois King, is taking care of Tricia while we must be up here. We arrived here last Thursday, the 19th. Betty came down with fever while I was out in the villages for a final look at the work. She finally got to feeling so mean, with a very sore mouth, that we decided to come to Dondi hospital. She has improved a lot, but yesterday still had a temp, so we probably shan't get home until tomorrow at the earliest.

But we are sure that she will be all right to travel. Our plans are to leave Nova Lisboa by plane on July 11th. We fly first to Luanda. From there we go to Leopoldville, then to Lisbon and then Boston. We expect to arrive in Boston on July 18th. We had originally planned to come by boat, leaving Lobito on the 7th of this month. But to date we have not heard from the steamship company about passage, and we find that there were no places on the boat anyhow. Other missionaries who wanted to go on the same boat, the "Patria" finally flew. We shall be coming by Pan American Airways.

Looking forward to seeing you soon. Lot of love;
and God be with you, *Paackie*

Dear Mum, all of you. you can see
and guess who got hold of this letter.
Susan said she was making choc
choc trains. we had a comfortable
trip home. Five minutes after our
arrival Mr. McElwain & his wife drove
in. Patricia is gaining beautifully.
She is so pretty and smiles & coos
now. She weighs 10 lbs. 7 oz.
already. We had a lovely Christmas
with the Tuckers. The youngsters
had a grand time with the bag
pope and balloons. Chongolola
was excited with his gifts.
Our new missionary, Lats. King is
a great help but my wife is busy.
The weeks prayer fast ended. Three
worship services a day and
two business meetings. Needless
to say Patricia & I did not attend
them all. Now we are closing
the books for the year. Monday
my husband has to go to La de Banderilla
on business for the school. I am
going to try to get a circular letter
off and a few personal ones.
Tommy & Kenny are fine. They
were a real help with Susan
& Patricia when they were home. Kenny
just loved to rock the baby. Love
really ball

Wells Henry,

~~Set~~ Sept. 12, 1852
Eve. 12

Opening your and a thinking
of you. She had an invitation for
August at Clark's Anderson is for
the morning night. It won't be much
from midnight you. But I'll be saying
by saying for you and yourself? I
believe to hoping in the end. The boys
applied to the morning by the 1st of June
& can hardly tell them up. Harriet
Henry's letter had at school and she
hoping. They are going to the museum
tomorrow afternoon. She's a little
Chloe and looks O.K. since didn't
the last night of this afternoon. It's
9:30. Just turn us up. She was really
Lorraine at 10 o'clock. I have an
appointment with Doctor Phil. Dad
got up for me. Can I say she costs \$5.00
price. A package came for you today
from Elizabeth's mother's place. Don't
know what you want or not? if so where?
Well little from your mother's place. Can you
price. Love - Henry & Harriet
1852

Tommy's Harriet are quite
away behind in school
work but both teachers say
"they are bright boys and
will do well & hope the
grade O.K. I think I'll
invite Tommy's class on
a school party for his birthday.
It's a small class.
I'll get the story for Monday
evening still hanging and
kids are pretty badly fed
keep me looking them closer
than I brought up a cat
Mr. Corrie brought up a cat
and set up for today. They
were both very friendly
got down. Mother's with
of morning. I'm sure
the boy. Would like something
better. Something to bite me
regularly & frequently. Well
I hope the mice you
all my love. Betty

Well, really Sept. 16, 1952
 as you see I didn't get this
 mailed. Sat. I got a notice from
 (Sept. 13) Railway saying a package
 was there. I had to go to the
 hospital for my physical when
 I got back the railway & I was
 was closed. This morning I
 got your card and told you
 better put it, but I had on
 my mail still. I guess
 I looked at Ephraim. The package
 was still there and they said
 they had received it. I told
 about it yet. Since you must
 have left Boston I wonder
 I asked them & told it with
 I heard more about it from
 you. I had to go back yesterday.
 May for my fall holidays.
 When I heard would be
 get. I got the O.R. answered
 have heard to for this.

P.S. I loved your letter - especially
 the last paragraph. I think I got it and send you
 through the wires from me
 heart - the best husband
 in the world.

Love to my wife
 & Betty

Saturday, June 1953

Dear Mom, Olive, Ruby, Francis, & Ralph,

Here we are 12 passengers aboard the Terraete. Our family of six and Mr. & Mrs. Ogren with their four children - Kathie age 10. Ricky age 8, Mary 5½ and Mark just four. It goes without saying that the children are having a wonderful time and the Mammies and Bladdys are getting gray hairs keeping them from falling overboard. We have a brisk wind all the time and one real storm - the second night out. Dramanin is keeping Bladdy from being really sick although he insists he is still a man for the land.

We were so pleased with our
package and the children are having
great fun with the candy as you
can imagine. I shall mail
this letter in the Belgian Congo
at Matadi. So when you get it
you'll know we are within
two days journey of being there.
We don't know yet how long
we'll have to wait at Matadi.

May had Boston baked beans for
breakfast. I know what I'm
going to have tomorrow morning.
The waiter asked him if he wanted
them after we were all through.

There's a highway and bus
all around. Lovingly and a
prayer from all of us.

Betty

Even just wrote
Grammie.

6 5/11/41

copy

Prince George Hotel
New York

Dear Mrs. Olive Ruby Thorne
Ralph

We are now aboard the

Yamacraw

It is supposed to sail

at 4 o'clock.

I think I can get a letter

written and off the ship in
time. It looks like it is going to

be a pleasant voyage.

There is another family

of seven missionaries in the

Belgian Congo that are
sailing too.

We make up the twelve

passengers aboard.

They have two girls -

53

10 years + 3 1/2 years and 2 boys
9 years + 4 years.

The kids should have
fun and drive their parents
wild.

However there is a good
big deck well protected with
metal sides where they can
play.

We have worked until 12
o'clock and 1 and one night it
it was 15 minutes to 2. we
really were tired
I didn't even need an office
operation after all.

Every thing is O.K.

Kenneth is fine after the
operation.

Bill & Eleanor brought us
down and all our luggage
what a mess we had.
We were so thrilled to
get your letters and package.

The children will have a
wonderful treat. We got Maus
package. Will send her a letter
from Bratislava if I don't get one
with this.

The children have each
a really good toy with the
money you sent. Henry has
a civilian defence truck you
just paid it and it goes for
a spin and everything.

Tommy has a fire truck
with a spot light.

Susan has a play school
it is a bench with dogs and
a hammer.

Patty has a pull toy and
she goes up and down the
corridor with it happy as
any thing.

Good be with you all
Love from all of us.

Betty.

American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions — 14 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts

INCORPORATED 1812

Telephone: CApitol 7-1750 • Cable Address: FERNSTALK BOSTON



July 14, 1953

✓ Mrs. Maude B. Hillier
Mrs. Francis Ellsworth
Mr. Thomas H. Dorr
Mrs. Earle W. Dorr

Re: Rev. and Mrs. M. M. Welch

Dear Friends:

A radiogram has just come from Mr. Welch
from Lobito reading: ARRIVED 13th ALL OK s/MAX.

It is good to know that the long journey
has safely ended for the Welch family, especially for
the sake of the youngsters. I know you will be relieved
to receive this word and will be notifying other members
of the family. In due course both you and we will be
learning of the next step in their journey.

We enjoyed our contacts with the Welches during
their furlough and wish for them a rewarding term of
service in their chosen field.

Sincerely yours,

Ruhama Yeranian
Office Secretary

President, RONALD BRIDGES

Executive Vice-President, DAVID McKEITH, JR.

Treasurer, HAROLD B. BELCHER

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

Secretaries: MARGARET E. BLEMKER — Europe and the Near East • ALICE E. CARY — Japan, Micronesia, and the Philippines
RAYMOND A. DUDLEY — India and Ceylon • HAROLD S. MATTHEWS — China • JOHN A. REULING — Africa and Mexico
MARK H. WARD, M.D. — Medical • WALTER C. TONG — Candidate • RUHAMA YERANIAN — Office

MARY A. WALKER — Librarian

Dear Folks, All of you,

Here we are in Lobito. We arrived the thirteenth just one month from the start. We got all our baggage that we had in the cabin with us through customs very easily. No money due. Now we are waiting for the things that were in the hold of the ship. Max expects to get them out this afternoon. Then and then only will we know how much duty we shall have to pay.

We are in very good health except for Max's tooth. We think that a nerve is dying in one that the dentist tried to save. Probably he will have it pulled as soon as we get to Dondi.

We are happy to hear that we have been located at Bailundo. Bailundo is the oldest and the largest of all the mission stations. It is also the nearest to Dondi. Being only about fifty miles. I am so anxious to get there and get settled and to work.

The children are having a wonderful time here on the beach. And I am having more freedom than I can remember having since Kenny was born. They are all happy and find their own entertainment all day long. I sure can appreciate it after the boat trip. I don't think I relaxed five minutes for the whole month except when I was asleep.

At present we think we shall drive to Dondi Monday in Hal Steed's new car. We shall send you a letter again from there. We have three letters from you folks that were waiting for us when we got here. It was so good to get them. You just don't seem so far away. I am glad that you are having such a good attendance at church. I hope that it will mean new vigor for the whole life of the church including its far horizons around the world.

Kl. Henderson expects another baby in November. Then the Steeds, the Hendersons, The Welchs, all having started out with two will wind up with four. What fun!

The list of letters that I have to write is a mile long so until we arrive in Dondi God bless you and keep you. Knowing that you are praying for us takes away all worry.

LOVE FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU.

July 53

July 22, 1953

Dear Folks,

I hope that you have gotten our letters from Matadi and from Lobito by now. We arrived here in Bailundo last Monday afternoon. Max and the boys went on to Dondi to arrange for our luggage and freight to be brought from there to here. It will come to Dondi from Lobito by train.

The girls and I are staying with the Okumas until we can get settled in our own house. Life will be an awful lot easier here. The Vila is only two kilometers away. There is a meat market there and all kinds of staples.

I love the house. It is more the cottage type and as such much more in keeping with the life of a missionary. We are all well but Susie. She has a bit of fever. But seems much better this afternoon.

On this station there are two other houses. The Okumas have three children. The two girls are four and five. They and Susan have already become great pals. David is three. I think that as soon as Patty gets over her shyness, they will be good friends too.

Now how is my Ralph. The children talk about you all. What a grande time we will have when we all get together again. And how the time is going to fly. It does not seem possible that it was over a month ago that we left home.

O yes the third house is the home of Harriet Somerville and the Portuguese teacher. You see we are quite a little colony. The Africans here have greeted us so nicely. We are very happy.

Mum, how about your inheritance? Is it all coming along O. K. As soon as Max gets back we shall be able to investigate our situation and give you a definite clue as to our financial wealth and as to how much you can expect from your African hoodlums each month.

Mum you know we love you an awful lot and there are no words to tell you how much you helped us. Everyone who has a daughter has wanted the pattern for the green dress that you made for Susan.

Olive how did your curtains go? Did you ever get caught up?

Ruby and Francis I wouldn't mind helping you tread hay this afternoon if you haven't it all in. We did have fun didn't we. Love from all of us. God bless you all. Betty

PS Have you gotten any boxes thru.

Wm. Dorr yet, or radio? Will

write more next week. The mail

is going now.

Missao Evangelica do Bailundo

Vila Teixeira da Silva, Angola

via August 12, 1953

Dearest Mather and Olive,

PS Two weddings last week and six
this week so far.

We don't know yet just where we stand on letters, how many have been sent to Galangue or to Lopito. You must have gotten one from Betty by this time, however, and will know that we are at this station, oldest of the American Board stations in this country. The founders of the station arrived here March 28, 1861. The work has thrived ever since and there are now 9,216 church members with 7,000 some in classes studying the catechism and church laws. New work continues to be done in outlying areas, however. One of these new areas is about 300 miles from the station and the other about 140, both in different directions. The older settled areas have gotten so far as pastor's centers and central schools with some of them having Sunday School classes. There are not many Sunday Schools as yet, however. This is one phase of the work which it is going to be necessary to push. Women's work needs helping, too. Boy's work is being carried on by the people themselves and many other phases. We'll tell you more about them as time goes on.

We have moved into a house which was begun back in the early days of the mission, though it is not the oldest house. It has been added to as the years have past. The largest section was added in 1925. The original construction was of stick and mud. The outside wall is still mud plastered. As soon as we can we'll get a picture to you. We already have fallen in love with the house. It's small and won't be too much to paint or plaster when repairs are necessary. The construction is against driving many nails in and expecting them to hold well, but we can manage at this point by a number of means. If the walls crack, that's a different story, but we shall go slowly in any case on changes which we contemplate. We do intend to change the bathroom, which is not complete anyhow, but even here we shall go slowly, in order to put it in the most advantageous spot. It is definitely inconveniently located now at one end of the house. We hope to change it to the center of the house before the end of another year. We do not have the curtains up as yet, but the rug is down and our divan from Galangue is in along with the other few pieces of furniture that we had. Someone gave us a good spring motor victrola, cabinet model, and with the pains we can have music. The pains came in excellent shape although it is dreadfully low in tone for lack of tuning. It is not too much out of tune fortunately and we can still use it. Our dishes have for the most part arrived and been put in order. We still have to make cupboards but are getting along. The kitchen dishes have come, too. Our stove we left in Galangue, but are using the stove left here by the couple now living in the house which we were in at Galangue. We all have beds and are now getting our mosquito nets ready. We did not have enough and were forced to make some. The tailor is now at work on them.

Well this is only a short note to let you know that we are here. We have not escaped sicknesses. Each of us has had one thing or another, but are on the mend. We do have to take Patty to Dondi next week for some examinations, but the doctor, one of our new ones, thinks the trouble is the aftermath of that February bout with scarlet and that we'll doubtless get to the bottom of these several vomiting spells Patty has had lately with success. All of us have had some malaria we think. Kenny has eaten too many peanuts once. We have had nothing extremely bad, however. Hope you are all well. Lots of love and God be with you, lovingly, *Arthur*

September 1, 1953

Dear Mum and all of you,

We were shocked at hearing of Manley's death. I feel almost as badly for you folks as for Avia. He was such a good neighbor. Tommy and Kenny felt badly too. They recalled how he let them help water the garden last summer. We shall all miss him just in thinking about his not being there.

The Welch family has finished with diarrhea and ~~fevers~~ fevers all apart of getting used to new climate and new food.

Max was the last to be sick. He had the same thing that Tommy had, the grippe. Now we are all rested from the trip well and raring to go.

Susy and Patty are enjoying the Okuma children and their days are full of play. They come in black from making mud pies or dressed in high heels, the grand ladies. It is all lots of fun. They play dolls, they color, and they ride their trikes.

Tommy and Kenny are making new friends among the African boys who live near by. They spent the entire afternoon yesterday building a mud house. They have grown up so much, especially Tommy. They are learning to take care of their own room. They make their own beds, and tidy it each day. Now Mum about the box of clothes. We heard at the coast that there was no duty on used clothing sent by parcel post. I say send a box along when you can and we'll see. If it comes through O.K. we'll let you know. m 11000077

Patty has looked so cute today. She has been wearing the little print dress with the wide blue stripe down the middle. It fits her so well color and everything.

We have had two thunder showers so far. They were unusually severe ones for such early ones. However it looks like no more until the rainy season really begins next month. We are enjoying the strawberries right now. I bought three pounds and a half for fourteen cents yesterday. We had them with sugar for lunch and in shortcake for supper. Then we made jam for the rest of them.

We can get all the fresh milk that we want here. We get about seven and a half quarts a day. It is remarkably rich, too. So we had cream for our shortcakes. *Not for you* *Polly*

Ralph I suspect that you are getting your fill of sweet corn these days. Eat a few nice ears for me, eh?

Love to you all,

Miriam Evangelina de Salgado
Vila Talhada da Silva, Angola
2 September 1955

Dearest Mother and Olive,

This won't be much of a letter, perhaps, but I'll try to put you up to date anyhow.

Betty had to go back to Dandi yesterday for treatment of an infection of the bladder. She may come back today with a missionary coming here from Dandi, but the doctor wanted to make certain that her infection was completely under control. It began yesterday night, Wednesday night about 10:00. Betty was in several times during the night and complained of sharp pains. About seven this next morning I got a sample of urine showing a tinge of blood. After that Betty rested, and got up only once or twice during the day. Fortunately a missionary on his way to Dandi from the coast came thru and agreed to take the sample to the laboratory at Dandi. We wrote asking for analysis and a reply as soon as possible. A telegram came late in the afternoon from the doctor that Betty was to come to the hospital the next morning, that is, yesterday morning. The single missionary worker here, Harriett Summerville, who was in Meine with Pastor Jesse Okimenda, took her car for the trip. Harriett returned last night with the news that Betty was staying, but might come over today with Margaret Bellidun, a Canadian women worker. No one has arrived yet, and it is now 1:45, approaching mail time. However, I anticipate that before the day is over Betty will be home again.

We were over in Dandi two weeks ago for examinations. Nobody had anything wrong with him, but since being home here again I have been in bed two days and a half with what was probably a strep infection of one side of my throat, until I felt it down into my shoulder. And Betty has had this other infection. Perhaps it is the same kind, but just shown up in a different place.

Patty is now talking some more. She talked very little on the boat, but is now going at it again. She's funny, tho. The first we have two black ones, is "kaka." "Here, kaka," Patty will say. The people here called the same thing. Patty got so that she imitated the other children, when we were still on the boat, at playing button, button. Betty and I didn't say anything. In Dandi she began to say "but" for button. Now she's saying "Here but, here but," holding her hands clasped together and rushing from player to player without ever leaving the button. If she happens to have one. When she wants to do "xi-xi," go to the toilet to make water, she says, "Shuahu," which is very much like what she says quite at times. "Susi" is "Susan." Patty is learning rapidly to go to the toilet.

Well, just to get a word off I'm going to close now. The boy is here waiting. I didn't have time this morning to write this and can't add much more now.

Sorry to hear of Maury's death. I'll get a letter off to him in the next mail. I'll send it to you. I haven't either of the boys' addresses and cannot very well send it to Connecticut. I did have Shirley's address, but don't find it now.

Lots of love to you both. We'll get a letter off soon to E and F, too, with a note to Ralph. But tell him meanwhile that we haven't forgotten him. God be with you. *Jackie*

Mission Evangelica do Barro Preto, Vila Teixeira da Silva
October 7, 1955

Dearest Mother,

We are very sorry to hear about Bertie Cook. There seems to be a lot of cancer in the States, but then we hear of deaths from it out here, too. Is it some sort of thing coming really freely about the world now and will turn up in history books for the 25th Century perhaps in the same light that the Black Plague of the Middle Ages is held in today? Our first teacher of English, Miss Margaret McKenzie died of leukemia, cancer of the blood. A women missionary on this station for a number of years was taken home and died the first of last year with cancer of the lymph glands. I understand that Miss Elizabeth Smith, who was a sister at Miss McKenzie's death while we were gone of that type of cancer. So out here we are not free from it either. Dr. Walter Strangway of the Canadian mission where we were for language study and where we met both Miss McKenzie and Miss Read once said that he performed many operations for the removal of cancerous tissues. Please tell Father that we pray for her. We shall be thinking about her and her family.

Good news about Ralph. He's going to make the grade we had from Ruby. Just got a letter from her last week with the news that she had come home with a 100 grade already. We're proud of him.

Love, Father,

to stay

Betty and I went out to a village together for the first time since we have been back. I guess it's the first time we have been out together to stay overnight since we've been in Africa. We were not able to leave the children before, there being no one to leave them with. The Tuckers came through from the coast last week on Monday night and stayed over here until Wednesday morning. They took Ken and Tom on with them to Dondi knowing that I would be along this week, yesterday, and pick them up. I went away yesterday after my generator for powering the projector and other electric things which I shall want for my audiovisual work. I'm going to be operating the generator tonight, hope. I shall be using it in the pastoral centers first and then perhaps can get into certain large villages with it. The projector for my Kodachromes I can use I'm sure. I'm not so sure about the tape recorder. We once we've had any huge success in the field of tape recordings made with a portable generator furnishing the electric power. I'm very anxious to see if I can solve some of the difficulties.

The Okumas, the ones about whom you have read, left this morning early for Lodi and a vacation. They'll be back sometime the first days of November. We shall miss them. Lois and Raley have a wonderful time playing with Margaret, Betty and David. Kenny and Tommy have gotten a bit of an edge on Margaret, only five or six years so don't play much with the Okuma children, but get along well when we have a party. Tom Okuma is one of Leslie Dunstan's protégés. He has been strongly influenced by "Dunnie" as he calls Leslie. We talk about Leslie every once in a while.

Time for the mail to go again, but a little earlier than last week so that I have a more weekend time for another week. Perhaps I can make up some more of my letter writing and we shall be able to put our address list in right and send out our general letter to arrive before Christmas.

Our love and kisses to you both from all of us and our prayers.

November 3, 1953 *God bless you all*

Dear Folks,

Tent of my mission service until a teacher comes, love Betty
We were so glad to get those long letters last week but not a bit happy at the news in them. Olive I do hope and pray that it may not be necessary for you to have that operation. However if it will mean relief from those pains in your face I will wish that you had had it a long time ago. You must know that our prayers are ever for your health and happiness.

Grammie we just got your letter sent November 26. Well Susie's letter is in the smoochies up above. When I left the typewriter earlier she played with the ribbon so that it took me ten minutes to get it to work right again.

I was trying earlier this morning to get a general letter written. We haven't sent one since we arrived.

Actually the only time I can write successfully is right now between one o' clock and three while the children are asleep. Tommy and Kenny each sent a letter to you and Aunt Olive last week boat mail. I want the little girls to send you some scribbles before Christmas.

Our school teacher has her permission to come at a long last. But she has to go to Portugal first so it may be next spring before she gets here. In the meantime I spend from eight to twelve teaching the boys. They have finally succumbed to the inevitable and are buckling down to their lessons.

For a week they have been in Dondi with their father at an audio visual conference. Max is staying over a bit to have a tooth pulled out. I hope he gets back tonight or tomorrow morning. While they have been gone I have finally gotten the house settled. I still have some painting to do in the boys room but I can't find the turpentine so I guess I'll have to wait until Max gets back and tells me where he hid it. We have girls to help us now. That are learning very well. Rody, the cook, can make better bread than I can already. They do laughable things sometimes. One day I told her to mix an egg with some leftover rice and cook it for supper. At supper time she sent to the table meat vegetable and potatoe. It was all very good. I didn't think about the rice. Imagine my surprise when in it came for dessert.

I am teaching an adult Sunday School class and am going to give piano lessons to some girls. That is the ex-

Dec
1953

Dear Mom, Olan, Ralph and
Ruby and Frances,

Just a note to greet you and
say we are all well. We are
busy getting ready for Mr. Reilly's
visit and for Christmas. The
Okumas, Wilehins, all had
Thanksgiving dinner with Harriet
Sullivan Somerville at her home.
It was very nice: - roast pork,
Olan's omelette, potatoes, lima beans,
sweet corn and ~~potatoes~~
and cabbage salad. We also had
a bunch of grapes - an extravagance
for this season. We had squash
pie and lemon pie and
apple pie for dessert.
My garden looks lovely -
by January we will have
cabbage, turnips,
cabbage, radishes, beets,
and lots of flowers, cucumbers,
The children and we are all
well. We were so glad that Olan
was getting some relief. I have been
advising him to take Olan's
medicine and



Miss Virginia B. Rattin
Strong, Memphis
C. F. Johnson, General
Post Office



Dear Mom & Olive & Ellsworth,
Merry Christmas to you all.

We'll be remembering the lovely
Christmas we had last year
and hoping & praying that you
are all well and happy from
together.

I am so sorry about
mom. I just don't understand
your thing. I just don't understand
what happened. I am writing this week
to try to understand it. I had a letter
from old in October saying he was
going to stay the following Saturday
to stay up the things. I had a letter
saying a note saying I have left
today. something from I have left
somewhere. I had a letter from
last Sunday night. Cal Thomas.

No in writing Paul, there.
Oh, Pauling is coming here
the 28th. I remember. May will
make arrangements with him
about staying but an allowance
for you from our salary before

is never known. We have
just gotten our debt cleared up like
nothing. And it is hard to explain
such things to the Board. I hope
Olive don't get sick for Christmas
and all the buying & buying. I need
other. So we'll be together in spirit.

Love & Love
Betty

We are all well though
every year's work for the Pauling.

Dear Mother and Olive,

Merry Christmas. I look forward to a bit more
time for writing in the new year.

Lots of love and God protect you,

Rockie