

each

We are trying to prepare for the coming of our guests by cutting ~~the~~ boy's hair, which we let get as long as possible before taking the shears to it because of the way they squirm around, getting them napped. They still haven't gone to sleep and it's now fifteen minutes since I mentioned that they were still awake. The hour is now 1:30 p.m. (Tsk Tsk Horrible typing I'm doing today.) Just look at those errors! Worse and worse all the time. Betty and I have given our bed over to Duane Waln, missionary at Chilesso, who is bringing Dr. R and Dr. M. We will sleep on the divan. We also have to arrange for a meeting here tonight with our chiefs, discussion meeting in which we'll get the lowdown on what's happening in our missions and at home and what we may expect to happen later, policies of the mission in days to come.

Oh, while I think of it, if you have access to National Geographic magazine look in October issue of 1948 for an article on Portugal. Pictures are very fine. Article good on the whole. Also see Life magazine of late November or early December for article and pictures on Fátima. We didn't go to the church but were within twenty kilometers of it on one trip. There were so many pilgrims there on the occasion that we decided we wouldn't have a chance to really see it, and did not go there. We were at the time on our way to Porto in the north of Portugal. A good book to read on Africa today is " Cry, the Beloved Country ", by Alan Paton, published by Scribners, 1948 I think. Ask Irene Daggatt about it. Anyone interested at all in Africa ought to read it. It's easy to read.

Have much to write about, but can't make my mind to do it all in this letter, because today is too full of all these other things. More later about things here. (The boys are raising a rumpus now, and it looks as if they wouldn't go to sleep.) I have to go to class at 2:10, too.

Sending copies of Christmas letter soon. Sounds funny doesn't it, about as funny as the amateur calling S. Africa and asking his friend there to call second friend in America to let daughter in. We have laughed long over that. Well, my Christmas mimeographed letter, ours rather, has been sent out piecemeal since before Christmas. We did the job here and have written many personal notes. You'll get copies by boat mail sometime before next Christmas we hope. The job was a big one. Our mailing list has two hundred and seventy-five names on it and we're behind in our correspondence, what with traveling and language study and children to get settled in a strange place. You may get our Easter letter before you get Christmas one, for we'll have former sent out from Missions Council office.

Do you know how Aunt Margie is now ? Oh, yes, Uncle Shep's address is 22 W. Wyoming Avenue, Melrose. About packages and duties. Have received the Christmas package without paying duties. Packages of about pound weight rarely are examined and held dutiable. Betty has received several pair of nylon stockings by air mail, a pair at a time, altho it's costly business for those who send the stockings, for postage is a dollar or more. But boat mail packages come through quite well. The corn came through perfectly. If you would like to find me some wooden wheels for making toys for the boys, perhaps you could send a small package by boat mail as you sent the Christmas package. Pakc so it doesn't rattle. Glad you got the blouses. We'll try to fix our packages better next time.

Love and God's blessing. Hugs and kisses from us all to Grammie and Aunt Olf

Mackie