

Missão do Bunjei
May 17, 1950

Dearest Mother,

By the time you get this the program on which we are now putting the finishing touches will be over and the church here will be starting off on another leg of its journey to become a truly indigenous church, that is, truly African. On May 27, Saturday, the day before Pentecost, the church here will ordain two pastors. At the present time we have only one for all our wide area, about the size of the state of Massachusetts. He's more, as you can guess, like a district superintendent and gets to many villages only once a year, or perhaps once in two years. Having two others to help carry on the work of the church which is under our care will make the burden a bit lighter. But we need at least three more before our furlough, although we don't expect to find them. There is no one here eligible by training, and the church does not accept with any too great joy an outsider, an attitude which we are going to try to break in some way.

Now that I've mentioned furlough I may as well tell you what was decided at our annual meeting of the missionaries in Dondi in Abril (Portuguese spelling just slipped in there). Plans call for the Coles to go home in April next year and to return in April of 1952. In 1952 we shall come home for a year. It will seem good to be back and to see you all.

Now Sam Coles is an American Negro with a popular appeal to many of the Congregational churches. Whether he'll be in Maine anywhere near you speaking I couldn't say, but he has been in Maine visiting and knows quite a bit about some of the larger towns. He was born in Alabama and attended ~~YankaxaxZakkaxaxfax~~ Taladega College for Negroes, but he's definitely American. We're very fond of ~~black~~ both Bertha and Sam, besides all of which they could be our parents in matter of age and we look to them for counsel. They have three children, all in America now, and two of them married. The one daughter has been married several years, long enough to have provided the family with two grandchildren. All live in New York.

Now a word about us all. The children have had some sickness since the first of April. Susan's complaints seem to be in connection with cutting teeth. She cut two or three front ones and then went to work and began cutting double ones. Kenneth is in decent health. Tonsils and adenoids on both boys seem to be no longer a threat. Apparently no operation will be necessary. Of course it's some time since we've written about the tonsils, etc., so you may wonder why I tell you again about them referring back to what is sort of stale news. I'm sure that you know there was no operation, but we want you to know the condition now. Maybe they'll never have to be operated on.

Tommy was sick, though, while we were at the meetings in Dondi. About half way through the conference he came down with broncho pneumonia combined with malaria. He was a sick boy for a while, and has not wholly recovered yet, but will be in another week or two we trust. He got treatment of penecillin and paludrine injections, along with some atabrine and quinine treatment. For a while the doctor was not quite sure just what the sickness was, but finally prescribed a satisfactory treatment. ~~Ratzy~~ Betty and I are both well, although we get tired enough some days to wish that no more people would come to the house along toward five o'clock and are ready to go to sleep at the end of the day. Betty had a bad cold the last of March but has recovered. I'm still taking medicine for amoebic dysentery. Hope that I won't be troubled too much by it in the villages this dry season.

Well, we are now in the dry season once more, our second in Africa. This year