

Missao 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 malaria 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 canthre 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 amoebic dysentery, and that he ~~is~~ is under treatment with Emetine and Carbozine. 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 handiwork 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. Meekin, 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