

Missão Evangelica do Baifundo
Vila Teixeira da Silva
Angola, Port. W. Africa
October 12, 1955

Dearest Sister Olive,

How time has gone by! And now it's your birthday again and almost gone by unrecognized by your brother in any way. Perhaps Betty wrote something to you in the letter of last week, but I didn't have time to read the letter, and shall spend my time now putting something here rather than going to ask Betty if she did or didn't.

We came back last week from our holidays at Lobito and have been trying to catch up a bit. We reached the mission at five minutes to six Monday morning, the 3rd of the month instead of arriving at four o'clock Saturday afternoon, the 1st, as we had planned. We ran over a rock in the road about 40 miles from Lobito, in the mountains, and the rock, a heavy one flipped up its rear and caught the oil pan such a blow that the oil began to leak out. We caught the oil, but still had to go where repairs could be made on the punctured piece. In the Ford truck we have a small plate can be taken off the bottom of the oil pan. This plate was leaking; it was a lso bent. I had to go with it, after a kind truck driver had removed it, to a plantation about 20 miles away. This took all day, for I had to catch a truck going and one returning to where the car was. Fortunately there was a house there, too and Betty and the kiddos stayed there the two days, Sat. and Sun., that it was necessary to be there. When I reached the car again at five in the afternoon on Sat. darkness was coming on. Discovering that I could not put the plate on again, because the other section of the oil pan was bent too badly, I decided that I leave the matter until Sunday morning. Sunday morning left me with no doubt as to my efforts; I found I could not do the job without taking off the entire oil pan and that to take it off I had to take the starter off, and didn't know what else I might have to do then. It was then I caught a pick-up going back to Lobito. There I found a mechanic who would bring me back, for a sum of course, and do the job. We were on our way again about six Sunday afternoon and drove all night, altho with a number of catnaps, about 280 kilometers, about 175 miles. Slept until 1 p.m. Monday. Betty didn't sleep because of the kids, who had slept throughout the trip of course.

Wednesday p.m. we took the boys over to Dondi to school and stayed until Friday p.m. The boys are in the new dormitory this year with Robin and Frances Markham to care for them. We hope everything will go smoothly.

The Woodmans sail from Lisbon the last of the month and come here to study Umbundu.

This is the news for your birthday on your birthday. Shall endeavor as soon as there is water to get you those promised pics of the youngsters, as a birthday present. Hope they reach you before Christmas.

Lots of love and God be with you, *Jackie*

Every says: Tell ^{the} ^{family} ^{about} ^{the} ^{well} ⁱⁿ ^{the} ^{school} ^{October 22, 1953}
I am doing well in school
Dear Mum, Olive, and Ellsworths ~~SUSAN~~ ^{SUSAN}

We just had a big birthday party.
Nagasaki, one of Lucy's friends
had a birthday so we had eleven
children for lunch. We had rice,
potatoes, fresh tomatoes and hamburger.
The cook made a chocolate cake & frosted
it with white mountain frosting.
We gave her cloth for a dress (red).
The Okuma children gave her a
doll, and Margie Van Laan gave
her a box of raisins. She was quite
an excited little girl. The skin on
her face was black but it seemed funny
when she said "Thank you". We had
letters from the boys today. They sound
like they are having a good time.
If the Truckers are able to come for
Thanksgiving they will bring the
boys. Of course we miss them. We
have peas, beans, cabbage and pumpkin
planted up here by the house. We
are still getting vegetables from the river
garden. The Sunday School has begun
preparations for their Christmas pa-
geant. You two, please keep well.
Love
God bless you all & please, write up

November 9, 1955

Dear Mum, Olive, Ruby, Francis & Ralph,
Today is as much like a lovely
June day in Maine. The grass is
green. The gardens are growing by leaps
and bounds. The foliage on the trees
is at its deepest green. All this green
absorbs the bright sunshine (when it
shines) so the out of doors is but
pleasantly warm. The rains are really
standing by us. We are still bringing
our water from the river in barrels
but we are thankful that there is
plenty of it there and we ~~are~~ no
longer have to ration ourselves. It
will probably be four months before
we have any water in our well.
The ground ^{was} so dry that even though it
has rained nearly every day (part of the
day) for a month when you dig more
than six inches it is dry and at a foot
you need a pick axe to break the
clay. This is the most recent snake
shot we have of the girls. It just

got back from the pet shop. Harriet Sumner
will took it over a year ago. Patty is now
wearing the dress that Lucy had on in the
picture. It is longer on her than it
was on Lucy in the picture. However
the skirt that Rita is wearing in the
picture is too short for Patty now.

Tommy & Kenny's address in Mondé is.

Missão do Mondé

C. P.

Bela vista

Angola, Portuguese West Africa

They are enjoying life in the dormitory.

There are 12 of them. 4 ~~few~~ boys
and eight girls. We are hoping that
the Tuckers will bring them down
for Thanksgiving. Tommy & Kathryn

Tucker and their children Nancy 12 and
Freddy 9 are going home on furlough
this year. They will be staying in Auburn-
dale. Perhaps they will get a chance to visit
in Maine. You may see them some
day. We have spent most of our thank-
givings and Christmases together here
in Africa. We are all O.K. We hope you
will all be better this winter than last. You are
always in our prayers. Love - ^{Tracy & Patricia} Betty

I tried to get two letters written but
time goes faster than my fingers.

December 7, 1955

Dear Mum & Olive, Ruth, Fannie & Ralph.

We just finished reading Mum's
letter of November 20 1928. The Great
Ralph's cold is o.k. now. In fact
we hope it was for Thanksgiving
we had a lovely Thanksgiving. The
Buckers, Susan, Throught, today, Keany
and Kathy Henderson along with
their own children. They arrived
Wednesday night, Thursday morning
we had a lovely Thanksgiving service
in English in the Church. Mary
conducted it. We had a light lunch
soup, of noon and then gathered
at Mary Thomas's house (the house).
For a 3:30 Thanksgiving Lent. Nearest
Somerville cooked the meat -
breaded pork chops - at our house
we mashed potatoes and made
rolls - Mary heated some corn

Patty trace over the words "Merry Christmas" with a crayon. She wrote her name by herself but she had a copy of it to

M E R R Y

C H R I S T M A S

P A T T Y

The children's height on Thanksgiving day was:

Kenny - 4 ft. 9 in.

Tommy - 4 ft. 6 3/4 in.

Susan - 3 ft. 8 in.

Patty - 3 ft. 2 1/2 in.

Susan is broad in the shoulders and Patty is narrow. The boys are about equal in shoulder measurement. We'll be thinking of you all on Christmas day - Love Betty
XXOOOOO God bless you all.

peas - a real luxury - Naomi Olan made Pumpkin pies and Dorothy Van Baan made salads. There were all together 24 of us 12 adults & 12 children. We set up long tables in Mary's large living room. Afterward the children entertained us with songs and games. The next day Naomi invited all the children for a picnic at noon. Saturday night we all ate together again this time at Mrs. Mai's.

The next week-end, thirteen seminary students with Dr. Mrs. Collins came down from Doudi to dedicate our new organ.

We divided all the guests among the three houses and then had a big buffet supper together again at Naomi's. There were thirty-five of us this time. Saturday of this week, we

Dearest All,

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. How we wish we could see you. We seem not to be able to catch up this year with anything. We're hoping that somehow in 1956 we shall be able to get those pictures we have been promising off to you and some new ones, too. The shortage of water has kept me from anything in the ^{time} photographic work and so I haven't developed a print since May.

We must get this off to you. The mail goes in about 2 minutes.

Lots of love and a hug and
kiss from your son + brother.

God's blessing on everyone this
Christmas time.

Jackie

3.

are taking the Van Leans to
Salangue to introduce them
to the people there. For they will
be stationed there, where they
have finished their language
study.

We will come back next Thursday a
by way of Dapadi and bring
the boys home for their Christmas
holiday. Don't worry about the
duties on the Christmas box of
that we may not get it until
Valentines. It will be just as
welcome. We did pay duties
on all the boxes we have received.
but none of them were too high.
I wonder if we got the last one -
was that the one that had yarn
in it? However, they have
all been worth the duties paid
and we are thankful for
them. Our biggest bottle

now is getting enough clothes
to keep our boys decently dressed
in school. They grow so fast
and boys' clothes are expensive
here. However, I guess all
parents have the same problem
and we seem to manage.

The world around us is just
so lovely now. Flowers - especially
roses & hibiscus in full bloom.
Beans, peas, & pumpkins - Cabbages,
broccoli, lettuce, Carrots are
all looking fine - Oh sweet
corn, too, is growing beautifully.
We are looking forward to next
vegetables for Christmas.

Susan has not learned to write yet
but she wanted to try to write "Merry Christmas"
I wrote it & she copied it.

Merry

Christmas

SUSAN

February 1956

Dear Mum, Olive, and Ruby, and Francis and Ralph,

We got Mum's and Olive's Letter last Wednesday. I am glad some people are thoughtful and see that Mum gets a ride to church. Also we are glad that you haven't had a lot of snow to be shoveled or plowed. We have had more rain than I have ever seen before here in Africa. It rains steadily sometimes for two or three consecutive days. It is hard to dry clothes but you may be sure that no one complains. Water is slowly coming back into our well. In another month we hope not to have to go to the river with barrels.

Our garden is producing fresh green vegetables. How very fortunate we are! The Woodmans are with us now. It was almost like having family arrive. They are always asking for news of you. Susy wants to type some thing to you now.

Thank you all for your nice presents. I made some cookies with a girl of ours. We cut out a pig, elephant, horse and a cat with the plastic models.

Will you Will

Susan wanted you SUSAN

To see a copy of her handwriting

Susan is doing very well in school. She has read two pre primers and has started on the third.

Max has been in Dondi since last Tuesday. He had a committee meeting on audial visual aids.

Next month we all go to Dondi to our annual meeting. Tommy and Kenry are having a good time there in the new dormitory. They like Uncle Robin and Aunt Fran very much. Uncle Robin lets them use his carpenter's tools. The clock says that had better sign off and get this in the mail.

Love to all of you from all of us,

God watch and care for you all.