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Dear Mum, Olive, Ruby, Frank & Ralph

We have gotten your lovely card. The dollars included and your Christmas box arrived on New Year's Eve. The boys were still big and what fun we did have! The boys loved the records, compasses, plastic horses, cowboys etc. Of course the girls were just thrilled with their beautiful dolls. We had a lovely Christmas, thought of you all & remembering your Christmas on your couch and looking forward to the next one. Ralph your picture smell. Tommy & Vicki claimed it and carried it off to school with them. Aunt Fran who takes care of them in London was here for a day last week. She asked, "Who is that good looking boy?" The boys have a picture of on their bureau? We are having Cole's garden now and are so glad! Our garden is producing the nicest things yet. Peas, beans, corn, cabbage & broccolis are especially good this year.

The gladiolus, geraniums, roses, forget me nots make the grounds colorful. The birds are singing again every morning. Everything is so beautiful & everyone is so happy. I am happy for the year.

Feb 11, 1956

Dear Mum & all of you,

The Welch's reporting. We are all o.k. Susan just had a bout with tonsillitis. But is o.k. now. Max was in London last week and saw the boys. They are fine, happy & healthy. We will all be going there next month for an annual meeting.

We have had a tremendous amount of rain for which we are all thankful. Right now we are enjoying a few days of sunshine.

There are now eleven children and two babies on this mission station. They do have a grand time playing together. Betty grows cuter every day. I pray that she will have as nice a disposition as she is good looking. It is awfully hard not to spoil her. But we try hard.

I am making pumpkin pies for dessert tonight. The other day we had fresh strawberries. It still seems strange to be able to have both in the same month. My garden is lovely. Love to you all & God bless you everyone. Betty

Susy waist 25"
chest 24"

Patty waist 24"

April 5, 1956

7 is *Forbes*
way of writing 7 (seven)

Dear folks,

Well what do you know, we are going to have a new address! It is with mixed feelings that we shall begin our new work next July. However we offered to take charge of the dormitory for the School for Missionaries' Children in Dondi for this year. Max will use his free time producing audio visual programs for use in all the mission stations. There will be fourteen children including our own in the dorm so that I doubt if I do much but sleep in my free time. When I say that we go with mixed feelings I do not mean that we are unhappy to be going to Dondi. It is just that it is always difficult to leave good friends behind us. I am so glad that has come an opportunity to have some audi-visual material prepared that will have the potentialities for both the inspiration and intellectual advancement of our people here whose opportunities for knowledge of their own country beyond their particular little village is practically nil. Max has made a few slide sets and recorded music or scripts to accompany them that have been very successful. But on a mission station there is little time to do so. We are really looking forward to production next year. Before we move there is much work to do. Next week I am directing a seven day school for two hundred women who will assemble here from the eleven centers. After which they will conduct similar schools in their areas. The preparation of lessons and demonstrations has meant a tremendous amount of work but it has been fun, too. To day about thirty men are busy building grass houses for them to live in. Max has four fairly long trips to take before we leave. After we move, we look forward to a couple of weeks at the coast with the Hendersons before school begins in September.

Susy is busy learning her ABCS with Aunt Naomi and playing mother to all the babies round about. To hold some ones little baby, to dress or undress it is the height of her pleasure these days. Patty, of course tries to imitate Susy in all she does and sings and sings and sings. Thebys were home for a week with three of their friends as guests. One is an American boy from West Virginia whose father is with an oil company in Luanda; one is a Dutch-English boy from Holland whose father is the Dutch Consul in Luanda, the other is the son of one of our missionary families. They dug tunnels played football teaching their African friends the game until their African friends could play better than they could. They also made their beds! And consumed gallons of stew and milk. I gave up trying to keep them in cookies and they seemed not to notice the difference. Bread from a nearby Portuguese baker was easier to provide, cheaper and disappeared just as fast. We all had a wonderful week. I got a real thrill when all but Kenny went off to school (AFRICAN) to see the pictures Uncle Max was showing. Kenny said he would rather stay home that night and play Rock with mum. Another night they were all worn out and ready for bed but Tommy. He persuaded his mother to accompany him to school to a social for all the village young fry.

Hello to all of you. I like to think of April coming in strong. Just think it's only a little more than two years and we'll be seeing you all again. Love, Patty

Missão Evangelica do Bailundo
Vila Teixeira da Silva, Angola, PNA
April 11, 1956

Dearest Mother and Olive,

Just a line to you all to let you know that we are in good health. We have gotten through annual meeting, found out that we are to be stationed now at Dondi, to take charge of the dormitory, and do whatever else we can do, and returned to Bailundo to finish up several tasks underway before we went off to annual meeting.

Our work now is to clear away the desk of some papers in process since last year, put our audio visual materials to rights, see if we cannot finish up something promised to Hugh W. Hubbard of New York, who asked last year for a story filmed here in Bailundo, and travel to several of the centers with the audio visual materials we can utilize right now. Betty is working this week with the women who have come in for a conference. She has done a tremendous amount of work with the women in this area. I sometimes grouch that the family gets little or no attention when she is engrossed in providing something for the women. I know that it is a very worthy cause, and that we are very dependent upon the women and will continue to be dependent upon them. If they do not learn, we can expect many times that their children will not learn. Of course it is at this point that I come back home, for I have my work, too. Well, it just seems that there's a great deal more work to be done than there are hands to do it, and that we are bound to run into difficulties because of this factor in our lives. I try to get along without making any noise, but sometimes get quite overwhelmed.

We are now right in the middle of one of the heaviest downpours we have had this year. I think of the women who have come to this week's conference from all over the area of Bailundo, many by truck, some on foot. They are living in grass covered shelters which are most certainly not going to shed all of the rain no matter how tightly built. We can only hope that not too many mothers and children will catch pneumonia before the week is over. We do still need the rain and cannot very well pray that it stop. The water level got extremely low last year, and our well has only recently begun to flow again, and this after deepening. Several other wells have not begun to flow yet.

You will wonder what exactly will be my job in Dondi at the dormitory. Well, first of all a father to all the kids coming in to board at Dondi. Next, try to work out a production scheme on some audio-visual materials. We know that Dondi will be a better place for this than Bailundo because of the fewer interruptions. It may be, too, that the mission will before the end of too many months have an audio visual van for me to operate. We hope so. Then it will be wet season production and dry season travel. I see the page has grown short and close.

Love and a big hug and kiss to you, Mother, and the same to you, Olive, and say Hello and the same to Ruby and Francis and Ralph.

May

Dear Mum & Olive
This is your birthday, Mum, we
have thought of it right along and
 hoped you'd be smart enough to
do something about it this year. We got
your letters and Olive's to day. Lucy &
Patty do enjoy hearing them so much.
Imagine Patty being big enough
+ old enough to play "daddy". Won't we
have fun in 1958. Lucy & Patty
made pictures for Dammie's birthday -
a couple of weeks ago. We have not
sent them - I feel awful but we'll
send them of new ones soon. My
has gone to a village with Dr. Wood
man. He will be gone most of
the time from now until July.
I have made one trip with him.
In Tommy's last letter he said send
Dammie a big hug & kiss for me
when you write. Here they are & O,
Mum, our new address will be -
MISSÃO DO DONDI

C. P.
BELA VISTA

Angola, Portuguese West Africa

We are all thinking of you especially
today & wishing you a very happy birth-
day in our prayers. Love to you
all from us all
Patty

Missão Evangelica do Bailundo
July 7, 1956

Dear Sister Olive,

Some surprise, huh! A letter from your brother. Mother can tell you the news of my being somewhat under the weather. Will include other news here.

Time is moving along and we are in the throes of packing our goods for the move to Dondi. One big box of books has gone already. We have some things packed already and next week will pack a good deal more. This is a good time to clean house and throw away some items which have collected but which we don't really need. We keep the kindling box full these days with papers we can dispense with.

I've just written Mother about the possibility of getting off clothing and Christmas presents to Boston in time to catch the shipment which Dr. Walter E. Strangway of Toronto is sending to Angola. The shipment must leave New York the latter part of August. I think that anything being sent to Boston cannot be sent later than the end of this month. It would be better to send earlier if possible. This doesn't give you much time to do anything up unless you have something already to put into a box. Outside of Dr. Strangway there is no one else coming until next year so far as we know. Then Harriett Summerville will be returning here. Don't feel any urgency to send books or pictures by the Strangway shipment. These can come any time by sea mail. Mark such things as LIVROS (books), SEM VALOR COMERCIAL (without commercial value), or IMPRESSOS, SEM VALOR COMERCIAL. Impressos means printed matter. We have not had to pay many duties lately on such things, but usually do pay on clothing, or Christmas gifts.

Well, this is still the dry season, and cold season. The rains are not too far off of course, two months away probably, but we can depend on suffering some more from dust and dry season winds and perhaps some shortage of water. This year will not be anywhere near as bad as last year, tho. Lots of rain fell and our well suddenly rose to more than the halfway mark. There must be nearly three meters, about 9½ feet, of water and the level drops very little. We had to replace leathers on the pump piston the other day and pulling out some 30 feet of pipe took a bit of doing even tho I had arranged for just such a thing. The pump just would not pump. It raises water and then sends it along to tanks in the house, but couldn't raise enough to send. We get plenty now in short order and are very happy with the system. To leave it is going to make us a bit sad. However, we are happy to be going to Dondi, too. There we will just open a tap.

Must close now. Mummy is sewing. K. and T. are playing football. Susie and Patty are climbing the wall. We seem to be all right now, and if we can get some rest in August, will be fit for the school year.

Love, a big hug, and kisses, from your loving brother,

Jackie

P.S. Yes, temperatures range now from about 50° at night to 75° or 80° during the day.

Mission Evangelica do Bailundo
July 7, 1956

Dearest Mother,

Our dry season is moving along. We'll soon be thinking about rainy season again. I have been out on field trips since April 29th, and with the exception of two Sundays on the station spent the weekends away from the mission until the final trip, the last Sunday in June. By that time I had gotten so sick that I couldn't travel anymore. I have been on a strict diet for about two weeks now. I think I'm going to recover and be able to eat as usual before passage of too much time, but I ate or drank something traveling which threw my digestion completely off and Dr. Woodman finally gave me tetracycline to lay the bug low. I felt something like having been dragged through a knothole. I shall have to plan next year on a helper for the car who can cook, too, and make sure that he knows how to boil the water well and keep the dishes clean, and not wash them with road dust and water from the ditch. That's what went on the last place I was visiting.

Next year's traveling will be something different in another respect we hope. We are expecting by then to have an audio-visual van to use. Perhaps we won't have all the equipment, but we do expect to have a suburban carry-all to use for a van. Dr. Reuling, who is now somewhere in Africa we think, succeeded in getting a grant for us of \$1,700. Adding this to some already raised brought the total amount we could have to over \$2,000, and there is some more here, enough to make \$2,500 perhaps. This isn't enough to buy the car yet, for it will cost around \$3,500, but we think that in some mission fund there may be enough found to make possible an order which will get the car here before the end of this year.

We are moving to Dondi the first of August. Same address as the boys - Missao do Dondi, C.P. Nr. 28, Bela Vista. We anticipate being settled in time to go to the coast on August 10 for a few days' rest before school opens and we take over as dorm parents. Tommy and Kenny have been saying that they want such and such in their house father and mother. We look forward to being with the youngsters and trust that by one means or another we can keep them happy. We think that the young couple which began the care of the children has done a wonderful job and hope we can do as well.

Do you have clothing to send, not pictures or books? Clothing you can get into a shipment coming here with Dr. Walter Strangway if you send immediately to Boston. Send to the American Board Purchasing Department, Frank A. Stowers, to be included in Strangway shipment. Pictures and books come better by mail. If you get clothing into Boston before the end of July, it should reach us by Strangway's shipment. Anything for Christmas, too.

Everybody else well. Hope you're having a good summer.

Love and a fond embrace, and our prayers for you
always,

Your son,

Jackie

May 12 1958
Dear Mum & Olive & Patsy
This is your birthday. Mum, we
have thought of it in the long and
hoped you'd be smart enough to
do something about it this year. We got
your letters and Olive's today. Lucy &
Patsy de enjoy hearing them so much.
Imagine Ralph being big enough
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the time from now until July.
I have made one trip with him.
Lorraine's last letter to said send
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Mum, our new address will be -
MISSÃO do Don d; 3

C. P.
BELA VISTA
Angola, Portuguese west Africa.
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day in our prayers. Love to you
all from us all
Betty