

Missão Evangélica 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 I. 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,

*Jack*

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

Missao 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 tetra-cyn 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,

*Arthur*

Condi - August 27, 1956

Dear folks - all of you -

We have appreciated your letters  
so much. The boxes of pictures came and  
have been distributed to grateful folks.  
Thank you so much! The calendar pictures  
are especially useful. So many just  
alike make wonderful Sunday school  
material. We have had as many  
as 160 children in Sunday school just  
on the mission station. We are busy  
getting the dormitory ready for the  
opening of school. Mary is a delegate  
to allianza and goes for a week  
- the last of August - Then we hope to have  
a week at the Coast for a rest before  
school begins. The children are all well.  
Patty saw a picture the other day  
of a house with clapboards & said  
that looks like Lammie's house!  
She almost thinks she remembers  
her gramma's house. The other looks  
at the pictures we took when we  
were home on furlough.

Love

God bless you all  
Betty  
XOXO

Nov. 6, 1952

Dear Mum & Dad

I am at the swimming pool  
writing this on the bikes. Tom & Ken  
and their boy friends are splashing  
jolly.

We are all well. Fourteen children  
plus May work with school pro-  
grams. Sleeps his humming  
during the day and ready for  
sleep before we are in bed  
at night.

Betty goes to Kindergarten with  
other missionary children & Africans.  
She is doing well and how she  
loves it. We have not gotten the box  
with the pens as yet. It will show  
up eventually I guess. Mr. Strangely  
has arrived in L.A. We should have  
the things you sent with him soon.  
It will be ok. To send new things with  
H. Somerville. He will be leaving  
in March. New things mixed with  
used clothing is not likely to increase  
the duties. What is waiting to go.  
God bless you all  
Love from  
all of us Betty

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Dear Mum & all of you

I have pledged my self to send you all a note every week even if I don't say anything. We are all well. I was good to hear that Eisenhower won the election - but the news east news aren't so good eh!

Your box with the pins came the very day I sent your letter saying they hadn't come. What a lovely gift! I & the dresses fit me perfectly. Susan of course was thrilled with her dresses which are just the right size. I love like the feel of those nylon stretch stockings. The shirts didn't mop. We sold them to our home boys for  $\frac{1}{3}$  of what they would pay for them at the traders and got enough to pay the duty on the box. We expect the box, the Strang ways brought any day now. It has been shipped up from the coast. Ralph now tell you must be getting. Genny is up to my nose now. Patty is as tall as I was when we were home. But she is not as big around. She loves kindergarten and is modeling things in clay painting with water colors and ~~learning~~ learning lots of songs & games. She goes to

Nov

Dear Mum, Olive, Ruby Francis & Ralph -

The merriest Christmas / Happiest New Year  
to you all! It was wonderful to get a letter from  
Olive! then one from Ruby. Congratulations  
on your T.V. I am sure it must be grand  
for you both! The children are all busy for  
Christmas. School closes the 17th. The children go home  
the eighteenth and we are going to Galangue the  
21st. The boys especially, are excited about this as  
they haven't been back since we left. I found  
some reasonably priced nylon in Nova Lisboa.  
It has flaws in it and you have to lay your  
patterns carefully, but a Portuguese lady & I  
have made each of the girls a new dress.  
Patty got hers for her birthday. Susan will have  
hers to wear to the Christmas Concert. We  
also found some water proof jackets for the  
boys for Christmas. Nearly anything & everything  
is now available in Nova Lisboa. What a  
difference in the seven years since we  
came here! My goodness Ralph, you are 8 years  
old. When we come back to America you will be as  
big as Kenny is now. I bet even if you won't be as  
old Kenny is 5 ft tall. He won't be in the croquet tourna-  
ment last Saturday. He has hard work to get his school  
work done because he likes to dream too much. Any

is in the second grade and is interested in doing her work.

I just found this letter and was I chagrined! I was so sure that you had gotten it long be-  
fore Christmas. Please forgive us. Well to continue, Patty goes to kindergarten. Mostly  
the children are African; There are four Missionary children that go. It is all in  
Portuguese or Umbundu. She enjoys it a lot. She comes home and teaches the other children  
the Portuguese songs that she learns. Since Tommy is the one member of the family who

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likes to write letters I'll let ~~you~~ him tell you about himself. They are really good children with all the lessons that all children have to learn in growing up to be good and loyal Christians.

Max now has his office nearly completed and has moved most of his things down. His desk still takes up most of our extra bedroom space but he will probably move it ~~back to his room~~ to his room this week. I shall be happy for him to be in a place where he can work undisturbed.

We had a contest between the boys and the girls to see who could have the cleanest bathroom for a month. The girls, "of course," won. The boys had to give them a party.

What a Party! They decided that it would be a hotel party. So they gave me a list of the different things they wanted to eat. Then they made menus from which their guests could choose. They made paper money and gave it to the girls. They arranged a booth

from which to sell tickets. The girls could come in and choose their places at the table buy their numbered ticket and feel quite excited and grown up. Some of the girls dressed

in boys clothes and played they were taking them out to dinner. Then the five boys of the dorm dressed in blue shorts and white shirts and waited on them. They did a beautiful job. They had set the tables, shelled the peas and generally helped in the preparation of the food.

The Woodmans have a new baby boy. Anthony Lee. He was born at seven-thirty November 5 at seven thirty in the morning. They now have three boys and one girl. Mary Elva is the oldest and she was six last December. Marie will really have her hands full for a few years but it will be nice when they are all of school age together.

The children are now all getting ready for Valentines day. They have been making valentines like mad.

Last Friday morning they conducted a worship service for the girls at Means School. They did it all in Umbundu and did very well. The students and the teachers at the school liked their service very much.

I hope I really get this letter mailed this time.

Love and God Bless you,

*Betty, full gas*

Dec. 23, 1956

Dear Mum, Olive, Ruby, Francis & Ralph,  
We are all well and hope you are too.  
It is hard to imagine snow and ice in  
Maine right now. The grass is so green and  
the gardens are beginning to take on char-  
acter so that you can distinguish between  
zinnias and marigolds - Cucumbers  
and celery.

The Shagbays have arrived and  
the boys (Cobby) from you folks I'd  
like to have had a picture of our four-  
teen kiddos diving into them. They  
thought it was wonderful - just like  
Christmas. They said - Lucy was happy  
to find a dress & some pajamas and  
Patly to found pajamas. ~~Kathy~~ Mimi Fargus  
found a dress - Parly F found a nightgown &  
so did Goy Steed. Genevieve Steed &  
Susan was thrilled to find the "stretchy" socks.  
They really are wonderful. I was thrilled with  
the lovely powder blue & tan suit and  
all the underwear. Gase Sandberg our  
African son whom we are sending to school  
was so pleased with the nice pair of trousers.  
Max found some ties which made him  
glad and at Christmas time, there  
will be lots of families made happy  
with all the other lovely clothes.  
I had been especially wanting a party girl.  
Even thinking of ordering one. Thanks so  
much. Love & hugs to you all from  
all of us. Betty God bless you & keep you  
well.

Missao do Dondi, C.P. 28  
Bela Vista, Angola, Port. W. Africa  
November 30, 1956

Dear Friends,

Christmas lilies in the woods - lovely red and yellow ladies appearing above their green foliage - the school children coming in at night singing Christmas carols, discussing the preparations for the Christmas program and then working on their handmade gifts during story hour - "When Jesus Came", the theme running through our evening devotions - the first Christmas cards from home arriving - all these things create that special aura of Christmastide here in Dondi, site of the central institutions of our Angola Mission.

After three years at Bailundo we have come to Dondi to take the responsibilities and the privileges of looking after the school age children of the missionary families assigned to the Angola Mission and a few children of other American and English parents who are here in business.

Our own Patty, age five, attends the African kindergarten. The teacher is a lovely African girl who learned well in a school for kindergarten teachers under the direction of Margaret Dawson and Elizabeth Utting, two of our Canadian colleagues. She often brings her classmates home with her to look at picture books, or for a treat of sugar candy. As soon as she feels well-acquainted with the new paths and roads she will undoubtedly be tagging off to their homes to chew sugar cane, as she did in Bailundo.

Susan and the boys are all in school with the other missionary children. Their school building is not completed yet. The theological seminary has a spare room and is sharing it. This brings the children into close contact with these fine men, all of whom are married and take a special interest in our children because they have had to leave their own families behind when they come here to study.

One Friday night recently our dorm boys and girls gave a party for the theologs. They put on a play in Umbundu and sang some songs in English. Then they served refreshments which they had made themselves. Everyone enjoyed it immensely.

Among our colleagues are some fine musicians. They give piano lessons to our children. This week they gave a recital for Institute and Means School students. Kenny and Tommy both took part. Both were flustered a bit because of a strange piano but each redeemed himself on his second piece. Max played some tunes on his musical saw. This was the first time he had played it here. The next day he happened to be in the trades school shop just as one of the classes was beginning and found several of the students attempting to get a tune out of one of the saws. He promptly lent a helping hand and ear. Who knows but we'll have a new artist for the next recital.

Max is also responsible for the production of and promotion of an audio-visual program for Dondi and the other mission stations. Right now Betty has only a narrow space through her office and her table free for her use. All other available space is occupied by projectors, screen, tape recorders and the rest of the paraphernalia that is vital to the development of audio-visual materials. By next week we hope his own office will be ready and that Betty can spread out her sewing and mending.

Last night Max was at the leper camp showing moving pictures and playing tape recordings which he made in August of the wonderful Jubilee celebration at our Elende mission. How these people do appreciate this service! Did you read "Jubilee in Elende" in the Oct. 19 issue of ADVANCE?

Finally, Max is one of the counselors for the youth group of our central schools in Dondi. As we come to Christmas and the close of 1956 we are both aware of how carefully we must proportion time and energy in meeting our newest responsibilities and we pray God's guidance in dealing with the sundry problems which arise from day to day as we try to meet adequately the demands upon the "dorm parents" in these complex times.

Beautiful Savior. King of Creation

Dec 4, 1956

Dear Mum, Olive, Ruby, Frances, & Ralph  
my goodness! just twenty one days to Christ-  
mas! We have been invited to Salangue  
for Christmas and the children are looking  
forward to it with great glee! There will  
be thirteen children there. Kenny the eldest  
and Kathy Jean the youngest age 17 mos.  
I guess the mamas & the papas will  
have plenty to do to keep them out of mischief.  
I have never had so many flower gardens  
as I have here. The plants are looking fine  
so far only the yellow daisies are in bloom  
and a few geraniums and dahlias.  
The children all help me with them and  
each has his own particular plot.  
We have written another circular letter.  
This time we are sending it air mail from  
here. So we are only sending a few to  
each town and hope that people will  
share them around.  
Marie Woodman was here yesterday  
afternoon rehearsing the children for  
their Christmas program. It is nice  
to have her now. Mary Ellen will be with us  
next year. Just think the next year we'll  
be coming home on parlor night! You must  
have had a hard time when Cousin  
Lillian was with you. I am sure you were  
glad that she lived to get back to her  
family. I am sure she loved the time she  
was with you even though she was ill.  
Ralph how is school? Have you gotten  
Tommy's letter yet? Mum & all of you -  
love & God's blessings be upon you  
from all of us & all of you -  
Betty

Missao do Dondi, C.P. 28, Bela Vista  
January 16, 1957

Dearest Mother,

This is the first time in several months that I have had a bit of time to really sit down and write to you. I am now at Annual Meeting, at the Camundongo mission in Silva Porto. I left Betty and the kids yesterday and came up by car from Bela Vista. We had an evening meeting and now are engaged in problems of the entire area and work of Angola. I probably shall return to Dondi by train, but perhaps the meetings will end soon enough that I can feel it possible to stay on until the close, which will very likely be Sunday. Leaving Betty with all the children to take care of though is a thought which will be ever uppermost in mind as I make plans to go or stay.

This is a borrowed portable typewriter of Swedish make and I seem to be having trouble making everything work right. But I did want to see how it operated, too. Perhaps it would be cheaper to buy one of these than to buy one in America. One never knows.

We are well into the rainy season as I write this. There has been too little rain in some places this present season. Galangue, where we were first, you remember, has had very little rain and crops are suffering. Dondi has had a fair amount and several late showers have brought a good deal of water. There should be enough for Dondi crops, but then it is situated at the very upper limits of the watershed.

Betty and I are enjoying the work in the dormitory. We have had one or two difficult times, but the work goes very well so far as caring for the children of our colleagues is concerned. I cannot say the same for my audio visual work. I am going to succeed I hope in getting together ~~taxi~~ enough funds to complete a building, or rather, renovate somewhat a building of some age, but which does seem useful and for the time being is available. I now have at my disposal a 16 mm Ampro sound projector on which we can record our voices, together with music or anything else we want to put on the film. I shall work with this and tape recorders, filmstrips and slides and hope to be able to produce something good for our use here. My missionary career I hope now to develop along these lines and pray for opportunity to do such. When I return on furlough I hope that I may be able to go to school again, but specializing in such such things as I am now doing and with something of radio broadcasting, too. I am going to write very soon to Dr. Reuling to find out about the possibilities of studying in New York and doing part time work there with the organization which sends us our films and is all the time busy with ~~an~~ studying and providing for our needs.

Thanks muchly for the pictures of you and Ralph, and Ralph and his Daddy. We certainly owe them letters. By the way, is that our RCA "Golden Voice" radio that I see on the mantle shelf. That is, the radio we used in Auburndale. I recall something about it, but hadn't found out whether you received it or not. Hope so.

Lots of Love to you and Olive and hugs and kisses around. May God be with you. *Rachel*