

copy keep

Feb 11 1949

Nova Scotia

Dear Mum Olive Francis Ruby and Ralph: Every week  
I think I will get a letter of to The Millers and Ellsworths  
but some how it doesn't get done your Christmas  
package just arrived. we didn't even have to sign for  
it what a package. The boys love their books and we our  
handkerchiefs nothing could be more acceptable  
nowadays than handkerchiefs, methods of laundry  
and the harsh soap are sure hard on cloths here.  
The stickers and Christmas pictures are delightful  
Kennie remarked about The cute calendar that's  
a cute fire place daddy Mum you sure have a wonder  
ful imagination. It was just the kind of box to thrill us  
here. The reason it was so long coming was the longhouse man  
strike on the Eastern seaboard. We got a letter from Barbara Van  
Allen that had been on the way over two months. We took our  
first examination in Umbundu to day. we have covered now all  
the formal lessons. It is a matter now of fixing the grammatical  
constructions in our mind and increasing our vocabulary by reading and  
composing. from now until April annual meeting the women folks  
should not be quite so rushed we wont have to go to so many classes.  
But the men will probably be busier as pastors will begin to call on  
them to preach and as the rainy season begins to near a close  
there will be lots of villages visiting farther afield than here to  
fore we are expecting Dr Rauling & Dr Mc Keith's Sunday night or  
Monday. Tommie, Kenzie and I have had colds but they are  
drying up now. So far Max has kept free of them. If I didn't  
eat just as much as he I should say it was just his  
healthy appetite. You asked about fruit. we haven't  
had The Oranges are ~~grape~~ tangarines we haven't had  
for about a month. The oranges are just beginning

again and the tangerines will soon be along.  
How ever bananas delicious fresh pine apples (2 cents a piece)  
mangoes a gorgeous fruit full of juice, apples, adraçado  
pears, and lemons. have be so abundant in one of the  
pictures Max took you will see me looking at the blossomy  
on a banana plant. NEWS! The Steeds have a new  
baby is she ever adorable she has lots of dark hair, she  
weighed eight lbs. The only brunet in the lot. The kids  
are all in seventh heaven and spend their time playing  
They are Genevieve (her name) or asking questions and  
more questions we have a pet toad or at least we  
think of him as such. he lives in a hole at the corner  
of the Varanda its fun to watch his beady eyes  
pop out as we go by. The Poinsettias are positively  
gorgeous now one of the pictures is taken of Max  
by one of the bushes. Oh I do hope the pictures come  
out good. We haven't seen a single picture in color Max  
has taken since we left Lisbon. It is not as easy to get  
them developed here. Kermie has learned to do a good job  
setting the table Tommie likes to help too. He needs a little  
more direction. You asked about school until Kermie is  
seven I shall teach him and I expect to begin next Sept.  
After that he will probably live with a missionary family  
in Dondi where the missionary school for missionaries children  
is located during the school months. My teacher has  
arrived. The boys are raising Cain in their bedroom. Not an  
ounce of sleep in them today.

Much love to you all

Betty & all of us

You are always in our prayers.

8:10 P.M.

Oct 1951

Dear Folks all you

Map just went on an errand to the nearest trader's. Maybe I can get a letter written to go with Cidalia tomorrow. She is going to Nova Lisboa. Lucie heard the car start and felt quite slighted because she is not going too. Map has been home this week and she has had a great time riding around with him in the pickup as he has gone after charcoal, adobe bricks, wood etc. She adores her daddy. Now she calling back & forth to a little girl Vivis is sleeping with Cidalia to night so that she'll be here to accompany her to-morrow to N.L. In this country a single girl or even a married woman can't go anywhere unchaperoned at least by a child. It is interesting that <sup>either</sup> the two Portuguese girls who live here would go most anywhere with Map because he is an American but they wouldn't think of going with one of their own countryman.

To-morrow we have a big wedding here. One of the young nurses at the hospital is marrying our dear ones's daughter. They are a fine couple. This morning we had a rehearsal in the church. The only difference between this wedding and an American one is the language and the fact that the pastor will ask for a witness for each party that he and she are Christians. After the wedding we will all go to the wedding feast. We'll eat corn meal mush, some kind of meat and for dessert bread and ocisangua. Ocisangua is a native soft drink made of corn meal, native herbs, & water. I have made a tiered bride's cake for the bride & cut. This is short. But it will let you know we are O.K. Going to Chissamba the 20<sup>th</sup> or so. Say hi to Patricia Chipuluth or John Maxwell. Send over next letter to N. S. S. do Chissamba  
Nova Sintra, Angola, P. W. Africa.

Thanks to love & God's blessing to everyone

Pro Patti 2 Galangue - 1950?

Please don't forget the wipe for soap!

Dear Mum, Alvin, Ruby, Francis, Ralph,

This has been just about the busiest week of my life. Last Saturday folks began to come in for the "week of prayer" services. About noon time a Portuguese man was brought to the hospital. All the other hospitals (not mission) had sent him home because they knew he couldn't live. He was a protestant and he wanted to be buried at the mission. He died Monday morning. Most of Tuesday was occupied with the funeral. A funeral means a lot of time at home, but in Africa first you have to hunt for some boards to make a casket and then a carpenter, some boys to dig the grave and all the details that the undertaker looks after were major responsibilities here.

Tuesday afternoon ~~late~~ Allen Knight and Don, Mr. Gilchrist's son, arrived with a moving picture projector and public address system. Before the evening meeting he got a lot of laughs announcing the evening's program and announcing that there was a lion on the premises. After church that night he showed a Walt Disney production.

of "Lazy Joe" He was too lazy to clean  
up the rubbish around his house, to  
build a retreat. And he didn't know  
about all the diseases flies could leave  
on uncovered food. It showed the eggs  
a fly left on a leg of chicken (under a ~~microscope~~)  
then it showed them going into the intestine  
and hatching out into worms. Later it showed  
Lazy Joe sick with a stomach ache. I  
don't suppose there is a day that some  
one doesn't come to the hospital (and in  
the real fly season many) with one of  
the many worm diseases that are so  
prevalent out here. Then it showed him going  
to the hospital, receiving medicine and coming  
home well with a shovel over his shoulder.  
The first thing he did was to dig a (retreat)  
(trench)  
put a cover over it and a house. Then he  
cleaned up his grounds, cleaned and mended  
his house and finally his healthy looking  
wife and children all helping in the  
garden. It was very humorous and the  
people simply screamed. Since then  
they have all been busy digging retreats.  
It also showed how Lazy Joe got back  
room worn from walking on filthy  
ground barefooted. Since then Tommy  
has worn his shoes continually. Before  
it took them off whenever we entered &  
looking. There really isn't any danger  
of getting hook worm on the Mission  
Station, but Tommy goes everywhere on  
his bicycle now so I'm glad he wears his  
shoes. It's a ride 12 kilometers (8 miles)



with Congolala the other late afternoon.  
Congolala had map bike. Tommy beat him  
home by some minutes. Wednesday  
meetings all day and more movies in  
the evening. Thursday Allentson left.  
but we had ~~the~~ ~~business~~ meetings and  
attended ~~the~~ the devotional meetings.  
Friday morning the same thing but  
one more business meeting in the evening.  
Saturday morning I left with Tommy  
and a boy in the pick up for  
Dondi. 10 miles. It is my first venture  
alone in the car. It had rained and  
the roads resembled our dirt roads  
(in Maine in mud time). However  
I didn't get stuck and got to Dondi in  
time for noon lunch. I did my  
business in Dondi visited with Henry  
(my h is getting fat & rozy chaked) Everyone  
adores him and they say the nicest  
things about him. Sunday morning we  
went to church had lunch and started  
back to Galangue. Arrived in time for  
supper. Today more business  
meetings. a visit to girl's dormitory and  
the hospital. Tonight since <sup>beginning</sup> writing this  
letter I have been to one of our teacher's  
houses to take paludrin (anti malarial)  
medicine to one of his children who has  
fever. Lucy is a peach. Her hair curls in the back.

she did duty in her bed this afternoon when  
I went upstairs after her she pointed to it  
and told me a long story which I couldn't  
understand. She goes to copy everything  
Tommy does. She expects to find her sliding  
down the bed one of these days.  
May seems to be recuperated from  
his liver trouble. He doesn't eat  
quite so much of hearty food as he did.  
He is writing letters for teachers, pastors &  
nurses tonight so that they can get their  
papers that will make them Portuguese  
citizens. He is leaving at four o'clock tomorrow  
morning for Nova Lisbon. It is now toward  
eleven o'clock and I can hardly keep my eyes  
open. Just heated cocoa and served  
May a lunch with chocolate cakes. Which  
reminds me Ruby you offered to send me  
a recipe for Peppermint patties. Please do. I  
always forget to ask you. And which reminds  
me. Mum will you send me your  
recipe for soap. The kind you make with  
ashes & fat. Everyone out here has a pig or  
two or three. So they can have plenty of fat.  
ashes are cheap; but soap costs  $17\frac{1}{2}$  cents for  
enough to do a small size family wash.  
Considering that a day laborer's wage  
equals  $10\frac{1}{2}$  cents I think it behooves  
them to learn how to make soap.  
What is worse, because of the war  
in Korea soap in Africa is getting scarce.

How kind & quiet. Mum love & God be with you. All

Dear Trammie  
Thank you for the  
dollar bill you sent  
me.  
Love, Tommy

1956?  
1953 or 1954

Dear Mom & Dad & Ruby & Betty & Ruth  
Tommy forgot to sign his letter  
have it was gone with the  
gang. I'll sign for him, so I can  
send this with the mail. I'm  
all well. This is week of Prayer  
and May in our visiting calendar.  
Night before last he had to carry  
a sick baby to London one of the  
Pastors. Harriet had a birthday supper  
for him before he left. We shall  
be going to Be. in the 2nd of February  
for annual meeting and shall  
be there about three weeks.  
I wish you could hear Betty singing  
& talking. Her favorite song is  
"Mary had a little lamb". She calls  
it "Lip-pul". Even so she takes  
honors from Tommy for being the  
Clown of the family. The school  
teachers haven't found yet. Betty  
is struggling with long division.  
Love to you all Betty Susan  
Susan wrote last 3 letters herself. She is a  
L.S.Q.H.



Mucão de Chusamba  
Nova Lintra Aré  
March 29, 1949

Dear Mum,

Well we've had a grand trip. The Hendersons and Stelch's got aboard the train and went to bed a week ago Friday. We were bound for Elende, the American Board mission station where Doctor McDowell ~~is~~ <sup>was</sup> I had a grand visit there. We went intending to stay only for a week-end but remained a whole week. We had ice cream every day because Mary Hurlbut <sup>the</sup> the single lady in charge of the school and Carl Dille's in charge of the Agricultural school both have kerosene ~~ice~~ <sup>ice</sup> box refrigerators. You can imagine how happy the kids were. Carl's Agricultural school closed while we were there. Max played his saw and Larry Henderson gave a speech in Umbundu. They felt quite important (the school boys) to have two guests take part in their closing exercises. The were thrilled all over to see the progress the African's at this station have made. Their independent spirit in making church policy was most gratifying. Many of them will not come to work on just regular mission work for 15 Angolassa a day (60¢ <sup>good pay</sup>) because they can make more on their own farms. However they are remodeling the church there and they are all eager to come and work on it for only

5 angolas a day (204). This is a real sacrifice for them because their personal taxes are high and everything they have to buy is high too.

As we had to pass through Kordou on the way home, I decided to stop and make a routine call on the doctor and take the next train to Chassanada. He found everything just fine. Last night at 1:55 in the morning one of the missionaries took me in to the train only to discover that it is 24 hours late due to a washout down near Lobito. I'm sorry not to get home to celebrate Kennie's birthday on the day but I guess he'll have just as much fun at his party a day or two late. I made each of the boys a flannel bathrobe and lined it with grain bags and had such good success that I tried a pair of pants a piece. I was amazed at how nice they looked. The Everett Church sent me a lot of old clothes and some remnants. I made Kormies from a remnant a lovely piece of blue serge and Kennie's from an old brown velvet skirt that had a very good shape as a skirt but make Kennie look really dressed up on Sunday. After I make a few nighties for Sister Sue or Brother Joe I am going to make myself a flannel bath robe. Wish me luck. I think I'll use the house coat you made for me for a pattern. God bless you and care for you.

Love & Love  
Betty

Have you received map's check yet? <sup>too late for Christmas</sup>  
He sent it through the American Board. but maybe better late  
than never?  
Dear Mum, Olive, Ruby, Francis & Ralph,

Time doesn't go any more slowly as  
it goes along, does it. It just doesn't seem possible  
that it is the middle of the week again. Here  
goes for the Family Chronicle: No. 1. Map—  
He is busy with a school for the deacons.  
catechists and teachers of the out station schools.  
They come to the mission once a year for three or  
four weeks to study Arithmetic, Portuguese,  
music, agriculture, community hygiene  
and Bible. Map teaches the Bible and music  
and arranges for their food. Last night after  
church he stayed for an hour and sang  
with the whole congregation. They were practicing  
Easter hymns. The church is so near the house  
that I could hear them very well. It was won-  
derful. With a little direction and training how  
these people can sing. Tomorrow is going to leave  
to take the wives of the two theological students  
the pastor and his wife to attend the gradu-  
ation exercises of the theological school. Are the  
women ever excited! I guess Tommie & Kennie  
will go with to and play with the children  
there for the day. No. 2 Kenneth. Today  
Kenneth will finish his third preprimer  
His vocabulary (reading) consists of 58 words  
besides the plurals of the nouns and the third  
person singular of the verbs. He can follow direction  
and do a page in his workbook by himself. Yesterday  
he was complaining because he couldn't make  
a boat that looked just like the boat in the  
picture. I said to him (because he didn't want to make  
one if it wasn't going to be perfect) You are just  
like Daddy. You are a perfectionist.

after Dec?  
1950  
March?

"No I'm not" he replied. I'm not as good as Daddy.  
How his Daddy laughed! No. 3 - Tommy - Tommy  
is growing up! He is trying hard not to suck his  
thumb so he can learn to whistle. He can make  
a whistling noise already and what a thrill  
it gives him. He has a little black kitty and claims  
Rory the male dog we are keeping for the Truckers  
while they go home on furlough. (By the way it  
is just possible that they may go through mine  
while they are home. We are giving them your  
address. He is a Canadian and she is an American  
from Minnesota.) Buck our female dog is as gentle  
as lamb she is about to increase our dog family.  
Both boys are excited. No. 4: Susan. Susan is  
wearing <sup>her new</sup> panties instead of diapers in the daytime  
now. For two mornings now Mummy has  
been smart enough to catch her in time to  
do her first B.M. in the pottie. Yesterday after-  
noon she only needed two pairs of panties. She  
is too heavy to stand on her feet much yet. She  
pull herself onto her knees and experiment  
with her feet but she is really heavy - jumpy  
but as solid as a rock. She creeps on her hands  
and knees now. Tommy didn't approve of  
her hitching because otherwise was creeping.  
So he taught Susan to creep. It was fun watching  
them. No. 5: Betty - me. I flutter around all over  
the place sticking my nose in here and a finger in  
there. I am trying to get the household organized  
so that when the full responsibility of the school  
falls on me next year I won't have to fret about  
whether the dishes are washed clean or my shirts  
are properly ironed and the food is palatable.  
Now most important of all! Your swell Christmas box  
arrived! and I ~~am~~ <sup>have</sup> been playing store in my spare  
time ever since. Thanks first heaps & heaps for the hand-  
kerchiefs for both Dina & Mimi are so pretty! Bertha & I are going to  
teach the girls here how to make that edge. Susan loves her  
sheep and the books are lovely too! Thanks mum to live  
first heaps & heaps. Love to all Bus.  
Patty & Dick you well.



Missão de Chissamba  
March 14, 1949

Dearest Mother and Olive,

Am writing to both of you this time, and trying to answer some of your questions in a way more satisfying than the way in which I gave the boys measurements, which we still haven't in really good order. Betty says that she has sent their heights, however. Good, I'm happy that someone in the family is giving you the news. But there's more to come even.

Better give it to you now, just in case you get the pictures from Rochester one of these days and ask the same question that Mother Lu asked after seeing the pics we had forwarded to Boothbay Harbor. She wrote and wanted to know if a smock over here meant the same thing as it does back home. We have written to tell here that it means exactly the same thing, and that the new addition is expected about the end of May.

But please don't be upset by all this. Everything so far has gone very nicely. Betty was somewhat ill coming from Portugal, but otherwise has had not too uncomfortable a time of it. She's getting bigger all the time of course, and has an idea that it will be twins or triplets, but we fully expect that there will be only one. There are good hospital facilities here at the mission. Dr. Walter Strangway is ~~next~~ expected to arrive before too long from his furlough in Canada and will have charge of mother and child. Everything else is in good order. Water supply good, although we take the pains to boil the water sufficiently to kill any harmful bacteria, at least so far as we know. We're following the advice of the doctor at Dondi and the nurse here looks in occasionally, or asks about the condition of health. There is also an expert in laboratory tests, in making them and reading them, here at Chissamba. So far as we can tell everything should go as smoothly as at home. We expect to send you some snaps of the youngster about July.

Other big news, which will be about where we're going, you'll get sometime the first of May. We'll know after the annual meeting of our colleagues in the last week of April. But we do not anticipate moving until after the baby has come and Betty is about again. We shall ~~still~~ be here studying the language of the Ovimbundu.

Now to some of your questions. The Mitchem's address is: ~~Rex~~ Mr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Mitchem, Guilundo, Quissico, via Lourenzo Marques, ~~Portuguese~~ East Africa. Letters on the air forms are very readable. Why a police force in Nova Sintra? It's the administration post for a large area, and the colonial system of government requires that there be a police force there. School system needs more space than this for explanation. Remind me again about this if I don't get to it soon. There is no high school there. Neither of the boys has learned much of the Ovimbundu tongue yet. They talk English with their playmates and Portuguese with the house boys, so far anyhow. But we do hear them now and then singing and noting snatches of what has an Umbundu sound. About their helmets and your question, if they wear them all the time. The answer is, no, and mostly they use them in the rain. Odd, isn't it? Sorry, now we have no strawberries. But haven't had any here, so we don't miss them as yet. There are many other kinds of fruit. Thomas is not sucking his thumb as much now as he was when we arrived here. Daddy can manage the bike now, even ride it with one boy on behind and one on the bar, not the handle bar, the cross bar. About our house boys and what languages they speak. All of them speak Umbundu, needless to say, but house boy and laundry boy speak a good bit of Portuguese. Cook and gardener understand some, and speak it, but not fluently. We have still another boy to work outside now. He speaks a little, and understands a good bit. Well that seems to be most of them to the first of the year, and enough for tonight, since I'm growing sleepy and making all sorts of mistakes. Our Coleman gas lights are good, but it's now an hour and a quarter past our midnight, which is nine o'clock out here.

Let me list now the pictures which are in that roll coming to you from Kodak in Rochester. Don't know if any of the pictures will any good or not. I learned when Dr. Reuling was here that what I had been using as a Wratten A filter on night light film was a red haze filter, and that I might have muffed a good many shots since using the filter. I shall be sorry to hear that some of my pictures haven't turned out because some of them will be Portugal shots which I cannot repeat ever. I haven't seen one of my pictures since last June, and am perturbed, for I took several rolls of film. I think I have about 12 rolls, nearly two hundred shots out, and have only heard from three of these. Dad Dorr has one roll of twenty, but when Mother Lu wrote about them she said very little to indicate whether they were good or bad. She saw enough to guess about the baby, and that K and T had changed. I sent two rolls to Toronto, to the father of one of the Canadian missionaries here. He forwarded them to New York I've heard. Outside this I know nothing, but since I've had all but a few rolls go directly to an agent in New York, I should be hearing soon about some of them I think. I'd like to have some of them to show here now and later on at home. Now for the list of those coming to you.

- Jan 1 - 1. Picture of old pastor of Bailundo. His name, Abraham Gulu. He was one of the first African pastors and helped tremendously to spread the Gospel in Bié.
- Jan 2 - 2. Betty and me, standing with Bailundo church in background.
- Jan 23 - 3. Turned because film removed for a time from camera. No picture. Sorry.
- " 24 - 4. Kenny pointing out Chissamba on the map of Angola.
- " 24 - 5. Tommy playing with trailer truck I made him out of packing box stuff.
- Feb 5 - 6. Family at supper. Ian Gilchrist, son of Dr. Gilchrist, and Allen Knight, Canadian agriculturist at Dondi, were our guests that night. Picture taken by Allen.
- Feb 7 - 7. Daddy and poinsetta flower near Chissamba church.
- Feb 7 - 8. Betty's teacher at work on a beautiful basket. Beside her is one of the school teachers of Chissamba mission. Betty's teacher also is one. Teacher's name Amy Hama.
- " - 9. Same basket, with the teacher's hand on it. Is there a fly on the hand?
- Feb 8 - 10. Betty in the garden. Corn in background.
- " - 11. Daddy and Antonino Hei, teacher, standing by poinsetta tree at Steed's house. Antonino used to teach full time in the school here. Now is teaching missionaries.
- " - 13. K and T standing by table in living room. Coleman light and vase of our front yard flowers, also a paper weight we got in Portugal. Tell me if you can see all these. Some of the blossoms of the plants from which these flowers came have grown at a height of six feet from the ground. Zinnias, aren't they? Some blossoms four inches across.
- " - 13. ~~xxxxxx~~ Dorothy Schauffler, Frankie Botham, Eleanor Kirker, Edith Radley ~~xxxxxx~~ playing badminton.
14. ~~xxxxxx~~ Not noted.
15. Ditto (Sorry about the errors above.)
16. Ditto
17. Dr. David McKeith by Steed's house (Feb. 16, day of departure for Elizabethville)
18. Dr. Reuling and Daddy (Betty left the filter off) (Feb. 16)
19. Same picture, retake. Learned about the filter just before this pic taken.
20. Our house, early morning, February 18. Pictures taken over two months time. Began film on January 1. If pictures no good on the whole, write and I'll try again.

Lots of love. God bless you.

*Mackie*

*P.S. If pictures good, careful not to fingerprint them. Fingerprinting  
smudges.*

Rev. Maxwell M. Welch  
R. Maestro António Taborda, 6  
Lisboa, Portugal

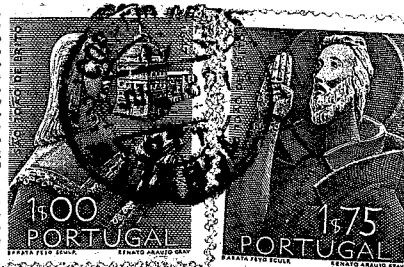


Mrs. Maude B. Hillier  
R.F.D. No. 1  
Strong  
Maine



USA

Mrs. Elizabeth D. Welch  
R. Maestro António Taborda, 6  
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**POR AVIAO**

USA

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