

Misado do Chilimo
Vila Tapreira de Silva
Angola, Portuguese West Africa
January 10, 1957

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

We have just finished reading your letter. How good it is to get all of them from you folks. We all got some lovely Christmas cards and the money which I know means a sacrifice that makes it that more precious. I spent nine days before yesterday at least that would equal seventy five cents of it. I bought a water pitcher in Vila Vista. Mr. Max and I and the two boys went to Dondi to take Dr. and Mrs. Reuling. They have just spent a week here and we have had a wonderful time. The glass water pitcher that we bought last Christmas full of sand never arrived here. I don't know where it got lost or if it was just left in Amburndale. Anyway, thanks to Aunt Olive and Mum we have another one.

We had as nice a Christmas as we could possibly have away from the rest of our families. The Okumas, Harriet, we, The McGowan's, Marie Oresby Rita and Sofia, (Two African Orphans that Harriet and Marie have each adopted) all ate Christmas dinner together. There were nineteen of us and eleven were children. You see it must have seemed like Christmas.

January 17, 1957

I certainly thought I had mailed this letter a week ago and I discover I haven't even finished it. Tommy did so well in school today I commended him. He promptly went and told his Dad. Then he came back and said "Daddy said he would buy me a ball for my bike because I did well in school. I told him if he didn't think it would be a good idea to keep on doing well. He agreed but that doesn't matter. The open got out of their pasture yesterday and ate up all my pop corn. I had just begun to mature. Fortunately Tommy, Vicmy, and their friends kept them out of the rest of the garden. By the way Vicmy did a letter with a ten dollar bill in it. Please you love to go on all and may God bless you.
Celly, all of us

Mission de Chilumbe
La Trepied de Bona
Angola
Bitingue
May 1954

Dear Grandma,

I hope you are well and
happy and the other day he did
but I can't remember what
uncle John called his picture.
Tell Aunt Lisa that I hope for
a new get well soon.
Thank you for the dollar bill
you sent me.

Love

Kenneth

Dearest Mother,

Your oldest grandson is learning how to write letters. We're pushing
him a little because he is not extremely keen on getting down to doing
the job. Reminds me of someone you used to know, and I still have to
struggle at times to get down to letter writing.

We had a very pleasant Christmas. We stayed here, had visitors from
the Bondi station, Marie Grosh and Dr. Robert McGowan and family. Marie
came from Nova Scotia, but has worked for the American Board for three or
four terms. Bob just arrived last year, has three children, ages four
months to five. He is one of the doctors in training during the war, came
from Iowa, studied in New Orleans, where he met his wife, and in Nebraska
where the doctor who used to be at Calangus now has an office and hospital.
I'm sorry that we didn't take many pictures. I'll try to make up
later by getting some good black and whites.

We had the Kaddings here last week. They came the 28th of December
and we took them over to Bondi on the 4th. They are now at Calangus.
From Calangus they go to Benda. They will be at Annual Meeting (of
missionaries of the stations and African church representatives) in
February and then head back to America. We are now preparing for
Annual Meeting.

Trust you got our little gift. We are making arrangements with the
Board Treasurer, Carl Thissen, to send more.

May God's blessing be with you both this year of 1954.

Love and a big hug,

Ruthie

Missa do Chibundo
Vila Leisera da Silva
Angola, Portuguese W. Africa
Feb. 24, 1954

Dear Mum, Olive Ruby, Frances
and school boy - Ralph,

First of all: Mum this above
is our official address. The
other address is o.k. It was
what the Mission was called
originally. Now the village next
to us is so big we don't have
to put "Nova Lisboa" on our mail
any more. Mum has written you
another letter. It will come by
mail. We have a nursery school
for Lucy, Patty and the two youngest
Joana's, now. A little African girl
takes charge of them and gives them
hand-outs to do. She does very well
with them. Max is back from a special
meeting and we are all happy to have
him. Are you can just bet.

The children all had a grand Valentine
Party. I think they enjoyed it as much as
Christmas. They made their own Valentines.
They decorated a box and Aunt Maemi
and I decorated a lovely cake. We had
a picnic supper on the veranda and
the children all drew each other lying
down on huge pieces of wrapping
paper. Patty is growing up so fast!
Her latest expression is "more gain"
when she wants seconds or wants
me to play. I am completely dumb on the
subject. Love to you
all.

Love from

Missão do Chitume
Vila Teópeira da Silva
Angola

SUS Portuguese West Africa
March 30, 1954

Dear Krammie and Aunt Olive,

Hi! Thank you for the dollar Bill you sent me. I had two celebrations one for my African friends and one for the missionaries in the afternoon. It was a very fine one too. We had moving pictures in the evening.

Love,

Dear Folks, Kenneth

Does it seem possible that Henry is ten years old? We have had an extra busy month. Mary has had two catechism schools and Harriet has had a school for the teachers. I taught in Harriet's school an hour a day. It really was fun. Patsy is growing up and is so clever. When she doesn't know the answer she says "I don't know". She has learned most of the songs in the "Golden Book of Song". Her present favorite is "Jesus loves me". She perches on the highest place possible and at the top of her lungs she sings it. Lucy is beginning to take mending stitches. She wants to sew or cook most of the time. You wouldn't know Tommy was mauling as fast. Henry has mastered long division with one figure. Now Ralph has to please you enough about Henry to please you this time. We couldn't go to a musical meeting because Lucy had her measles.

Lots of love and God's blessings.

Missão Evangelica do Bailundo
2nd April, 1954

Dearest Mother and Olive,

We were discussing the address and have decided that the best way to write it is as you will find it on the outside of this letter. However, you can also address letters to Missão do Chitima. One is the old name, the other the new, and presumably official one, but for the present we think we shall use Missão Evangelica because of its Protestant significance and because we consider Bailundo as having been begun by our church. There is also a Catholic Mission of Bailundo, which I believe that it has, has an official name, Missão do Chitima, because of the name of the mountain near which it is located. We get along very well with those of that mission I think and I have no idea of offending them. I don't believe that using Missão Evangelica as Bailundo is going to offend them either. It occurs to me that the official name ~~was suggested~~ by someone who wanted to have all the missions equal, or to put our missions at a disadvantage by making it impossible for one using the official name to know whether one was Catholic or Protestant except those of the officials. I'm only guessing in any case. From our relations, which seem to me to be very good, I see no reason not to use, or to refrain from using, either of the names. With which reasoning we are continuing to use Missão Evangelica do Bailundo. Well, I've gone on long enough about such a matter.

Betty was over in one of the suburbs of the station today at the birthday party of a one year old. Just how this has all come about I have no idea. Why we are expected to help celebrate the birthday of one one year old when there are several hundred of them just around us I have not figured out yet, but Betty and Harriet Summerville went anyhow, and perhaps Naomi Okuma.

Bessie and Patty are asleep I hope. Kenny and Tommy are playing with cars or an old gramophone motor which "Uncle" Dick Webb brought to them day before yesterday from Salangue, and I'm getting at this letter, long, long overdue.

We have had a busy time ever since just before Reuling was here. I've only this past week had time to curl up an instant to do some real honest-to-goodness thinking about some of the work needing to be done. We must begin dry season work in the villages right away. The rains seem to be stopping. We must finish plans for a bathroom, for which the Board is granting us funds. I've had one hole dug for a septic tank, and find that we may have to modify our plans again, and that I'll have to dig still another hole for the tank. I'm trying to work out an audio-visual education program. We are also looking ahead to a two or three week vacation at the coast in August, but because of dry season work find it a difficult thing to plan. Betty is teaching the boys now, but we hope that the new teacher, Miss Margaret Thomas will be here by June and that by September the boys can go to school. We'll miss them but they should be getting their work under the supervision of a teacher who only has the one occupation. The Okumas are leaving the latter part of July and we must prepare for that as well as for the nurse's return within the next four weeks. She is now crossing the Atlantic. I see that I'm going to use some of the side of the sheet to finish up, so here goes.

May 12, 1954

Dear Mom (especially) Olive, Ruby, Francis and Ralph.

Mom, this letter should be reaching you today. I am sorry that it is only getting written. We'll be thinking of you all day and say a special prayer at lunch time. Benny has written you a letter and it will go best mail. Maybe you will get it for the fourth.

We are all well. Dad has a new motor bike. It is just a bicycle with a motor on the back. On the way to the hills yesterday he tried to avoid a collision with a dog and ended up in the road himself. He wasn't too much hurt but he ruined his watch. His left arm was bruised some but not enough to stop him from work any.

Our teacher is due in Lohito Sunday. We are all excited to meet her. I think it will be good for the boys to go to school with other children but now we will miss them! I have enjoyed teaching them and they have done very well, I think.

Fatty is getting so cute. Right now she is sitting on the porch just outside the door and singing The Muffin Man at the top of her lungs. She rides David Okuma's bike all over the place at top speed. She and Susan have now swings and how they love them.

The children had a wonderful party the other night. Aunt Harriett invited children only and gave them a wonderful roast. The Okumas had gone to Gileaso and left their children with us; so Mommy enjoyed not being invited and having a quiet meal with Daddy.

Olive's were glad to hear that your health was better. I do hope it keeps on improving.

Ruby and Francis, it will soon be time for haying. I wish I could be there to help tread a load.

Ralph, So you are doing well in school! That's just fine. You study hard so you and your cousins can play anagrams in 1957. Just think one whole year of our term has gone. It hardly seems possible.

Our rains have stopped for this year but we are going to have lots of lovely vegetables. We have a beautiful river garden that has already given us peas, beans and greens.

Mom, about the pictures, I can still use them. I guess there is no place in Africa where good pictures aren't usable.

I have been making walking visits to the villages near by. When I leave they give me eggs, a chicken or bananas. I leave each one a picture they are so happy!

We are going to Lohito for ten days the last of this month. It will seem good to have a bit of a vacation. We are all tired and the beach is just the place to rest.

Lots of love,

Betty

Dear Folks,

July
1954

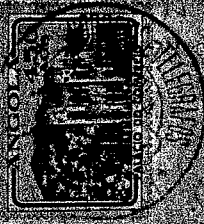
I don't dare check on how long it
has been since I wrote. We are all
well and happy. I just seem to
have some kind of a block against
writing letters. Betty & Jimmy are growing
up. They are as sweet and kind as
Jimmy and Meggy are in school.
Happy as can be and doing well.
I just visited them last week and
they are just coming with Church
meeting this week. I am just finishing
a circular letter. You should get
it within a month. Then I am
going to start Christmas cards and
from here so to shape our pretty
stamps. We have are having
thirteen guests for lunch today.
They are pastors & their wives.
The girls are doing a swell job
in the kitchen as I dashed out here
to write a note as today is mail
day. We now have eight goats, a
few hens, a dog and two cats
and enough potatoes to keep the children
happy. Don't you think. It is
still cold although the days are
beginning to get warmer. I am
teaching the women here to knit
sweaters. They are as appreciative
and I hope to you all. Love & peace
to you and hope you well. Betty
Dad & Mom

August 27, 1957

Dear Mum and all of you

There is complete peace. Everyone is traveling from Kulu to inland or vice versa. In the past few weeks we have had four one night parties. One party of five arrived at tea time, stayed just long enough for refreshment and were on their way. It is also one of our busiest times on the station. I just had a school for all the Pastor's wives. In the meantime all four children have had good doses of measles and Max has traveled 1500 miles visiting villages. Tommy had measles first. Then the other three came down at the same time. I really don't know who had the most fun. We're riding up and down on the backs of Corbair type roads or one hopping up every five minutes at night to fetch a drink of water or halda basins. Now that it is over it makes a good story anyway. No complications from measles. Max is home for five days to get ready for the start of term. The boys go to school the 1st of September. They have new uniforms and new plaid shirts and are happy. I have made Tom a patchwork quilt (2nd Mountain Pattern). So it really is a long

Letter from the...
 in...
 our...
 we...
 and...
 your...
 truly



Billie Carlo

Gene

to Opus de B. Hillas

Opus de B. Hillas, Opus de B. Hillas

Estad de Honduras
 de Norte



REMITENTE
 E. A. Webb
 making the...
 capital of the...
 capital of the...

The...
 to...

September 7, 1954

Dear Mom, Olive, Ruby, Francis and Ralph

Thank for the beautiful card and the gift. It arrived today. You really do too much for us. I just got home from Dondi last night. We took the boys to school and busy to have her tooth out. It was a nurse and was abashed. She has been a new girl ever since. She is so sweet and good. The other day she helped me with some baking when we were "helpish" asked. "Haven't I been a 'helpish' girl today?" Patty is as impish as ever. Henry & Tommy had a grand vacation. They ended it with a big party - twenty-one guests - all African boys. It was a lot of fun. You could not find a more dignified or better mannered group anywhere. The new teacher is a wonder! The second day of school we visited (three of us mothers). They sang two part music. May stayed in Dondi to bring the pastors home from their annual retreat. Harold came Tuesday. He Henderson brought me ^{and} is making a little visit.

We have had one thunder shower and a goodly amount of rain without.

Sept. 18, 1954

Dear Mom & all of you

We have just heard that a hurricane struck Maine. We are anxious to hear news of you all. We are all well. The boys are in school. We miss them awfully but they are happy. We are putting a new bathroom in our house. It is an awful mess now but it will be lovely later when it is finished.

I received the lovely birthday cards from you all and the two dollars which I am sending to South Africa for seeds. I mailed Tommy's to him, at Addis. You folks do far too much for us but we do love you lots. Thanks you. We have only received the first box of clothes so far. The others, no doubt, are held up in customs for a bit. I am going to give driving lessons to a Portuguese girl this afternoon. Then we are going to have tea at Harriet's. May be working on the house and accounts. These first days seem to come much faster than from before. We love you. And here you are

September 25, 1954

Dear Folks,

It was so good to get your letter and know that broken out windows were the worst things that happened to you during the hurricane. I do hope that Florence decided to stay out to sea.

We are all well. Max eats, sleeps, talks and dreams, "remodeling" these days. Our house is one of the oldest in the mission. It has an interesting history. The front bedroom and the front porch were the rear end of the original "Stover House". Mr. Stover was one of the early missionaries in Angola. The house was built of mud and stick. The front of the original house was torn down or fell down. A few rooms were added on to the back. These were made of adobe. Later, other rooms were added and then some walls were taken down. In some rooms part of the floors are brick and the rest is cement. When we arrived, the bathroom was at the extreme end. It was necessary to go through the girls' bedroom and our bedroom to reach it. The fixtures were far from adequate. The boys' bedroom was on the other end of the house and because of the thick adobe walls out of earshot. On the same side of the house with the boys' bedroom was the dining room and the kitchen and pantry. The kitchen and pantry took up half the length of the house. It was a killer to work in. Now it is turning into two bedrooms and a bathroom with a corridor to link them all. Our bedroom is the former dining room and is flanked on either side by the boys' and the girls' bedroom. On the other side of the house is the livingroom, dining room (formerly the girl's room) kitchen (formerly our bedroom) pantry which was the bathroom. The walls are on the way up and Max is studying out the plumbing. You can bet it keeps him busy.

The rains have come about two weeks earlier than usual. What a lovely world it is! Every thing is turning so lusciously green and lilac jacaranda jacarandas are gorgeous.

We have had letters from Tommy and Penny. They are enjoying school ever so much. They have a wonderful teacher. She reminds me something of Olive. I said something about Aunt Olive the other day and they said, Oh, Aunt Olive, she is my dearest aunt!

Patty is the apple of her Daddy's eye. She just a little ixie. She sings all the time. Her favorite song at the moment is: "My bunny's so funny. He wriggles his nose and then hops away on the tips of his toes!"

This is the season for lots of eggs. I am going to try my luck at making an angel cake for tea today. Come have a piece?

Lots of love, and God bless you all.

Patty

October 10, 1934

Dear Mom, Olive, Ruby, Francis, & Ralph,

Did I write and say thank you, thank you
for the cards & gift. I write so many letters
in my head I never can remember but I
actually have forgotten or not. We are all well.
Map is proving himself a planner of notes.
We now have hot & cold running water
in the kitchen. We soon will have a
lovely bath room.

Marrist is having a party tonight.
All the Sunday School Teachers. There will
be about twenty of us including our child-
ren. My cook is making the dessert. Cottages
are pending. We heard today that the woodman is
leaving New York the 15th for Portugal. We
are so happy! Lucy is still wearing
the lovely red colored suit you made. Mom
she looked so nice in it the other day.
Patty's dresses have been let down. She
will soon move into Lucy's out gown.
We are making chili sauce today. We
have 16 quarts of tomatoes on cooking.
Enough for the whole mission, I guess.
The "Calus" from Chile are vaca-
tioning here this month. We are having
tea with them this afternoon. They are in
the Okuma house. We all had a
picnic on the mountain the other night.
Baked beans, macaroni salad, potatoe chips
& Boston Cream pie with lemonade
for the kids & coffee for the grownups. Ralph,
we wish you had been here too.

October 27, 1954

Patty made this

Dear Folks,

Your two boxes arrived yesterday. We took out the pins and quickly closed the box. We will send some of the balloons to the boys in Dondi with their pins. The rest will be happy surprises from Grammie come Christmas. The pins are just the neatest things I have seen in a long time. Red and green are the Portuguese national colors too. Thank you all so much for all your work, your thought and the money you spend. Please don't spend all your money on us though. You are supposed to do something for your selves once in a while.

I am sending a letter to Grammie by ^{boat} mail that Tommie wrote in school thanking her for his birthday present. He sent it to us to be addressed.

Max is hoping to finish the remodeling of the house this week. I do hope he can. His other work is piling up and then he will have to work so hard to catch up.

Patty is just getting over the mumps. At least we think that is what she has had. It is so hard to distinguish between swollen glands and the mumps though. It will be nice if the kids have all these children's diseases before we come home in 1958 and then we won't spend our time that way then.

Susan is learning to sew. She can really do a pretty neat job. I am really proud of myself I just made Susan a Sunday dress that I am not ashamed of. Someone gave me a piece of green silk while I was home. It is the crawly kind and what a job! However I did not want to buy any as long as I had this. I put white collars and cuffs on it. She got lots of compliments on it. The African women who know how I struggle to sew any thing were thrilled with the result. I have also been painting. We are having bedroom furniture made for the girls out of our packing boxes. I am painting it buff and blue. You can imagine Natty and Susy helping me, can't you?

A new missionary family are arriving next month. they are going to live here in Bailunde this year and learn Umbundu. I am going to help teach them. It will be fun I think.

*Susy has drawn some savings fund with much coach-
ing and a little help in writing*

THANK YOU
2 US 2 N

Patty says I went to winter so her goes.